Early vs. Late Variety Yield U. S. No. 1, 14 Weeks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Irish Cobbler</th>
<th>Date Planted</th>
<th>Date Harvested</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OAKLAND COUNTY—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Canfield, New Hudson</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>August 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Williams, Milford</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>August 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed. Welsh, Walled Lake</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>August 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>104</td>
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<td>72</td>
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The foregoing demonstration proved the value of growing an early variety for early market in 1932 in Oakland county. The Russet Rurals were also knobby and ill-shaped compared to the Irish Cobblers, besides being much more immature. The Cobblers also out-yielded the Russet Rurals in total yield per acre.

Summary

Late potatoes planted on May 15 in Central and Northern Michigan and on June 1 in Southwestern Michigan out-yielded potatoes planted at any later date under the 1932 growing conditions.

A 500-pound application of a high analysis fertilizer increases yields 17 per cent. The percentage of gain held for high as well as for low yields and the use of fertilizer was profitable at present potato prices where yields were high.

Close spacing in the row reduced the amount of rough, oversized, growth cracked, and hollow heart potatoes, thereby increasing the yield of salable potatoes per acre 16 per cent, besides increasing the total yield per acre when compared with a hill spacing of 24 to 36 inches.

The Irish Cobbler, the most important early variety in Michigan, out-yielded the Russet Rural, the leading late variety in total yield and U. S. No. 1 per acre and were more mature and of much better type when both were planted early, sprayed and harvested in 14 weeks, indicating the importance of growing an early variety for an early market.

Michigan 300 Bushel Potato Club
1932

J. J. BIRD, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan

The Michigan 300 Bushel Potato Club of 1932 broke all yield records since its organization in 1922. An average of 410 bushels per acre was made by the 43 growers who qualified this season. The 1932 enrollment is the second largest in the history of the club. Russet Rurals were grown by 38 of those qualifying,
Green Mountains were grown by four members, and the White Rural variety by one.

Weather conditions were favorable for fair yields over most of the State, with an extreme amount of rainfall in July and August over much of the Upper Peninsula. Twenty growers qualified for club membership in that area. The Southwestern portion of the State suffered most severely from drought.

Since 1931 the Club has been open to all Michigan potato growers. Previous to that year it was confined to those who produced certified seed. The leading tablestock growers are at present practically as well aware of the 300 Bushel activities as are the certified growers and relatively few qualifying yields go unnoticed. It is worthy of note that, considering the relation between production methods and yields, 38 of the 43 1932 members are certified growers.

In order to qualify for membership in the Michigan 300 Bushel Club a grower must produce an average of 300 or more bushels of potatoes per acre on five or more acres. A complete outline of production methods employed is also required and is the most important feature of the Club. A systematic record of production methods followed by the outstanding growers in the State each year is best obtained by means of the acre yield clubs or contests.

Mr. John Eilola, Hancock, Houghton county, heads the list of the 1932 Club members with his record-breaking yield for Michigan of 584 bushels of certified Green Mountain per acre on 9½ acres. Heavy rainfall during July assisted in boosting yields in the Houghton vicinity. Mr. Eilola, however, is an outstanding grower of certified seed and well versed in potato culture. His yield is a new State record on five or more acres, and displaces the record of 538 bushels per acre set by Mr. Delongchamp of Champion in 1931.

Mr. Eilola summer fallowed a mixed sod for his 1932 crop, dragged or disked 11 times, planted 20 bushels of certified seed per acre, spaced his plants 14 inches apart in the row, applied 400 pounds of a 5-8-7 analysis commercial fertilizer, row cultivated only once, and made nine applications of Bordeaux Mixture with a high pressure sprayer.

Mr. Alphonse Verschure, Manistique, Schoolcraft county, and Mr. John Soderman, Crystal Falls, Iron county, tied for second place with a yield of 554 bushels per acre of certified Russet Rurals. Both are certified seed growers of long standing and have consistently qualified for Club membership for many years. Mr. Verschure uses more commercial fertilizer per acre than any other member. He applied 1800 pounds per acre of a home mixed fertilizer having a 1-17-8 analysis. Mr. Soderman applied 400 pounds of a 3-15-12 fertilizer besides an acreage application