



# General

# Management practices for the cultivation of Potatoes



1.

## Potato Characteristics.



- Cool Climate plant
- Reproduce vegetative
- Susceptible to a wide number of virus, bacterial and soil born diseases
- Kind of a soft plant. Hail and wind can cause huge damages.



2.

## Planning.

- Decide for which market to plant
- Plan and decide on planting date before seed potatoes are ordered
- Order at least 4 months before planting date
- Tubers must be optimuin plant ready when planted



### 3. Soil preparation.

- Potatoes prefer sandy soils with clay percentage lower than 20%
- PH between 5 and 6
- Remove or set alight all undisclosed plant materials before soil preparation
- Deep rip are recommended



4.

## Plant.



- Plant only well sprouted tubers
- Don't let tubers get in contact with fertilizer
- Don't let tubers lay in direct sun for to long periods especially during high temperatures
- Plant in ridges above ground level
- Plant  $\pm$  6 inch/15cm deep



## 5. Plant Population.

- Population under irrigation 38 000 - 45 000 plants per hectare
- If rows are 1 meter apart, plant 20cm apart
- Ideal stems per hectare: 150 000 - 180 000
- Seed potatoes sorting 250 tubers and 450 tubers per bag
- Delivery in most cases are 75/25
- ± 160 x 25kg Seed bags required per hectare



## 6. Water requirements.

- Keep soil only a little moist until potatoes emerge
- After emerge: 25mm per week
- Potatoes can with draw up to 65 mm per week during warmer times





## 7. During growth season.

- Inspect plantings regularly for defects and diseases especially late blight and tuber moth
- Control Irrigation
- Apply top dressing
- Manage a chemical spray program





## 8. Harvest.

- Keep the potatoes in the soil for at least two weeks after plants are dead for the skins to set
- Harvest as quick as possible sort, pack and sell



**When is the price the best ?**

**When the potatoes are market ready?**

**Thank you.**