

PACIFIC RUSSET

Agronomic Highlights – Dry Land

Pacific Russet is an early maturing Russet variety (95-100 days) that produces a high yield of large blocky attractive tubers and it tastes good.

SEED MANAGEMENT:

Pacific Russet has a medium to long tuber dormancy. Maintain seed dormancy until just prior to cutting and planting. Ensure seed is > 42 F when handled. Tubers should be showing signs of “pipping” just in advance. Seed should be cut to a target seed size distribution of 75-85 % between 1.5 – 3.0 ounces and minimize seed piece less than 1.5 oz. in weight.

Average seed piece weight targets should not be targeted as it is highly dependent upon the mother seed lot size. Pacific Russet can be pre-cut and suberized.

Use of a seed piece treatment that gives excellent control of Rhizoctonia, **Fusarium**, Silver scurf is highly recommended. The use of an in-furrow fungicide is highly recommended.

IN ROW SPACING:

[Dry Land Spacing: 12.0 inch]

This is based on linear row planting, not bed plantings. Pacific Russet will produce a high percentage of tubers > 3.0 inch diameter if the in-row spacing is wider.

STRENGTHS:

Common scab, Hollow Heart, Growth Cracks, Secondary Growth, Quick Tuber Bulking in the last 7 days of growth, Large Tuber Size.

FERTILITY

P, K, Mg and micros nutrients are to be based on local soil tests results, crop yield estimates and nutrient removal rate. Yield targets of 450-475 cwt/acre should be used.

However, Pacific Russet does not require a large amount of N compared to other Russet type varieties. Higher N rates will delay maturity and skin set.

A total N rate of 165-180 lb/acre is common for commercial production, ideally all applied by planting.

If the crop is to be side-dressed, then ~125-135 lb/acre N should be applied by planting and the balance by tuber initiation or ~ 35-40 DAP or by 1st cultivation or before 1 pass hilling. The balance would then represent ~ 40-55 lb/ac N on the side dress.

Sandy soils (CEC 5-8) may require 10-15% more total N. Monitor N levels using petiole N sampling on a weekly basis beginning after 40-45 DAP.

Petiole N levels should be ~18-20000 ppm during early bulking.

COMMENTS:

Pacific Russet sets ~6-9 tubers per plant.

Pacific Russet produces 1-3 stems per plant

It can require up to 14-21 days from top-kill to harvest. Ensure tubers are mature before harvest.

Avoid harvesting in dry soil conditions.

Harvest tubers when the tuber temperature is > 45 F or < 60 F to prevent black spot bruising.

If Pacific Russet is to be stored for long term, use of a post-harvest fungicide is suggested.

DISEASE(S):

Pacific Russet requires a standard Late Blight fungicide program that is typical in the production area.

However, a preventative **Early Blight** is required and preventative systemic fungicide applications should begin before row closure and continue on a 7-10 day program.

Products such as Pixaor, Revus Tops, Quardris Tops, Headline are good systemics.

Other intermediate protectant sprays should be with Mancozeb based fungicides for early blight control