ALEGRIA

Agronomic Highlights – Dry Land

Alegria is a high yielding dual purpose yellow fleshed variety. Alegria is an early maincrop variety (95-100 DAP) with a high marketable yield of large tubers, oval to long oval in shape. Canopy development is relatively quick post emergence. The variety can field fry and from short to medium storage for the home fry industry. The variety can be produced on various soil types but on sandier soils, irrigation is recommended.

SEED MANAGEMENT:

Alegria has a medium-**long** dormancy. Maintain seed dormancy until just prior to cutting and planting. Ensure seed is > 42 F when handling. Tubers should be showing signs of "**pipping**" just in advance of planting, if not, a delay in emergence may occur. Do not allow the seed to sprout and then be de-sprouted. 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. **The use a drying agent at seed cutting is recommended. Alegria can be successfully pre cut in advance of planting, 10-14 days would be recommended if possible.**

Minimize bruising during handling.

Alegria 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 recommended.

IN ROW SPACING:

[Dryland Spacing: 11.5.-12.5 inch] This is based on linear row planting, not bed plantings.

Alegria can produce a high percentage of tubers > 3.0 inch diameter if the in-row spacing is > than 12.0 inch

STRENGTHS:

Common scab, PVY viruses, Hollow Heart, Secondary Growth, Growth Cracks, Mechanical damage, Storability

FERTILITY

P, K, Mg and micros nutrients are to be based on local soil tests results, crop yield estimates and nutrient removal rate.

Avoid excessive use of K nutrition which may suppress dry matter content.

Avoid N sources of Nitrate only to prevent N movement in the soil.

Use of other K sources other than KCL may be beneficial

Yield targets of 375-450 cwt/acre should be used.

Alegria does require a sufficient amount of N compared to other Yellow flesh type varieties but 30-40 % less N than Agata.but more than Satina, Electra, Jelly…

Excessive N rates may delay maturity and skin set.

A total N rate of 165-**175** lb/acre is common for commercial production in dryland production, Ideally the N should be split, 2/3 pre plant or at planting and the balance 1/3 post tuber initiation. Allow soil or rotation N credits in the total N amount. Compensate N for high C:N rotation crops (corn, sudan grass….)

Sandy soils (CEC 5-8) may require 15-20% more total N. Monitor N levels using petiole N sampling on a weekly basis beginning after 40-45 DAP. Maintain 15-20000 ppm of N from 50-70 days after planting.

COMMENTS:

Alegria sets ~ 11-13 tubers per plant.

Alegria produces ~ 3.8-4.5 stems per plant

Avoid planting in cold soils, < 45-48 F

Minimize field conditions that would allow for standing water.

Alegria has determinate growth.

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

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

Avoid mechanical damages.

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

Alegria is **NOT sensitive to normal rates of Metribuzin based herbicides.**

Alegria has a medium to moderatley high dry matter.

For Frying purposes, store no colder than 50 F or 9.5 C if color requirements are strict.

Use of Sprout Inhibitor post harvest is recommended, might require earlier storage treatment

DISEASE(S):

Alegria requires a standard Late Blight and Early Blight fungicide program that is typical in the production area.

However, if Late blight pressure is high a more proactive fungicide program is required.

Avoid fields with a known history of common scab.

Avoid fields with a known history of powdery scab.

Use an in furrow fungicide for Rhizoctonia control.