

most years when soil test K levels fall below established critical levels. Potassium sources have little effect on total tuber yields, but K_2SO_4 applications produced a higher percentage of larger tubers and a trend towards higher specific gravity. Growers should apply the total K fertilizer requirements on a pre-plant basis where possible. Higher rates of K should be split into a fall and spring application. Growers who monitor K petiole concentrations should fertigate with K if concentrations drop below 7.2 percent in the fourth mature petiole. The total rate per individual injection should not exceed 30 lb

TABLE 3. *Effect of K application method on tuber yields and specific gravity averaged across K sources.^a*

Yield parameter	1992 240 lb K ₂ O/A		1994 360 lb K ₂ O/A	
	Preplant	Split	Preplant	Split
Total, cwt	429b	388a	434	412
US #1, cwt	337b	298a	298a	315b
Large US #1, cwt ^a	105b	72a	101b	82a
>10 oz, %	28.4b	21.9a	34.0b	26.9a
Specific gravity	1.081	1.081	1.079	1.079

^a Means within the same row and experiment followed with different letters are significant at $P \leq 0.05$.

K₂O/A during tuber growth. Late season (30 days prior to vine kill) K fertigation applications are probably not effective. BC

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North Central Soil Fertility Conference Proceedings Available

Papers of the 1995 North Central Extension-Industry Soil Fertility Conference are available for interested individuals. The Conference, held in St. Louis, MO, November 15-16, was the 25th annual opportunity for agriculturalists from the North Central region of the U.S. and Canada to be updated on the latest developments in soil fertility research and education. The North Central region includes the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and the province of Ontario.

The proceedings of the Conference include presentations on site-specific crop management, improved fertilizer recommendations for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur and zinc, the importance of starter fertilizers for reduced tillage crops, residue interactions with starter fertilizer needs, corn hybrid interactions with starter fertilizer applications, management considerations for returning conservation reserve program (CRP) land to production, systems research for higher

yields, efficiency and profits in corn-wheat-doublecropped soybean rotations plus a number of other important topics and reports.

The Conference also encourages graduate student participation and recognition. 1996 Graduate Student Awards were presented to Rogerio Borges, Iowa State University; Jon Charlesworth, Purdue University; Jason Goesch, University of Nebraska; Marcus Jones, Michigan State University; Luiz A. C. Lucchesi, Ohio State University; Karl Ritchie, University of Illinois; Kevin Schoessow, University of Wisconsin; Michael Smith, North Dakota State University; Tad Wesley, Kansas State University; and Terry Wilkerson, Southern Illinois University.

Dates for the 1996 North Central Extension-Industry Soil Fertility Conference are November 20-21 at the Westport Holiday Inn in St. Louis, MO.

Copies of the Conference proceedings are available at a price of \$15 in U.S. funds from the Potash & Phosphate Institute, 2805 Claflin Road, Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502, phone 913-776-0273. BC