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# Yields of the Field Experiments 1971



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# 71/R/P/10 Spacing, Seed Size and Fertiliser - Potatoes

### **Rothamsted Research**

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## 71/R/P/10

#### POTATOES

#### SPACING, SEED SIZE AND FERTILISER

- Object: To study the effects of different spacings within and between rows, seed size and fertiliser rates on yield and size grades of potatoes - Whittlocks.
- Design: 4 blocks of 8 plots, randomisation restricted. Plots split into 4.
- Whole plot dimensions: N plots: 2.84 x 44.7. Sub plot area harvested: 0.00116.

  W plots: 3.66 x 44.7. Sub plot area harvested: 0.00149.

#### Treatments:

Whole plots: All combinations of:-

- Distance between rows: 71.1 cm (28 inches) (N), 91.4 cm (36 inches) (W).
- 2. Seed size: Small (S), large (L). All seed chitted.
- Fertiliser rate: 1510 kg (F1), 2510 kg (F2) (13:13:20).
   Sub plots:
  - 4. Spacing of seed within the row: Seed 30.5 cm (12 inches) (3), 40.6 cm (16 inches) (4), 50.8 cm (20 inches) (5), 61.0 cm (24 inches) (6) apart within the row.
- The seed was dusted with 4% 'Benlate' at approximately 3.57 kg per tonne, after being sorted into 2 seed sizes, 3.18 cm to 4.76 cm, and 4.76 cm to 5.72 cm, for the S and L treatments.
- Basal applications: Manures: None. Weedkiller: Linuron at 0.84 kg in 427 l. Fungicide: Mancozeb at 1.35 kg in 438 l on 3 occasions. Insecticide: Demeton-s-methyl at 245 g applied with first mancozeb application.
- Cultivations, etc.: Ploughed: 1 Oct, 1970. NPK applied to F1 plots: 6 Apr, 1971. NPK applied to F2 plots, all plots rotary cultivated: 20 Apr. Potatoes hand planted: 21 Apr. Weedkiller applied: 11 May. Fungicide plus insecticide applied: 24 June. Fungicide applied: 14 Aug, 16 Aug. Sprayed with undiluted BOV at 168 1: 16 Sept. Lifted: 27 Sept. Variety: King Edward. Previous crops: Spring wheat 1969, fallow 1970.
- \* Because the spray on 14 Aug was followed by heavy rain.

## 71/R/P/10

NOTE: After harvest a sample from the produce of each plot was graded into 6 sizes.

Standard errors per plot. Total tubers, tonnes/hectare. Whole plot: 3.58 or 7.1% (21 d.f.)
Sub plot: 2.81 or 5.6% (72 d.f.)

# 71/R/P/10 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

TOTAL TUBERS: TONNES/HECTARE

	S	L	F1	F2	3	4	5	6	Mean
					17.33	A-	7.70		I folia shi
	(±1.26)		(±1.26)			(1) a	(±0.89)		
N W	51.0 46.5	54.4 49.4	51.2 46.3	54.2 49.6	54.6 49.5	52.2 48.6	51.6 46.9	52.4 46.8	52.7 48.0
			(±1.26)		(1) and (2)				(±0.89)
		S	47.6 49.9	49.9 53.9	50.9 53.2	48.7 52.1	47.5 51.0	47.8 51.4	48.8 51.9
						(1) and (2)			(±0.89)
				F1 F2			47.5 51.1		
Mean (±0.50)					52.1	50.4	49.3	49.6	50.3

<sup>(1) (</sup> $\pm$ 1.08) For use in vertical and diagonal comparisons only (2) ( $\pm$ 0.70) For use in horizontal and interaction comparisons only

71/R/P/10 % WARE: 4.44 CM (1.75 INCH) RIDDLE

	S	L	F1	F2	3	4	5	6	Mean
N W	69.0 75.5	69.0 74.4	67.5 74.8	70.5 75.1	62.2 70.5	67.0 73.4	71.1 75.2	75.5 80.7	69.0 75.0
	v-L	S	71.8	72.7 72.9	66.5 66.3	70.7 69.7	73.5 72.9	78.3 78.0	72.3 71.7
				F1 F2	64.0 68.8	70.0 70.4	72.1 74.3	78.4 77.9	71.1 72.8
Mean					66.4	70.2	73.2	78.1	72.0