WHOLE VS. CUT POTATO TUBERS FOR PLANTING ON IRRIGATED LAND.—2.1

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The production of potatoes on the irrigated lands of southern Idaho is an extensive and profitable industry. Growers generally are agreed upon certain methods of procedure in the production of potatoes under irrigation, but there is a widespread difference of opinion among them relative to the use of whole and cut tubers for planting. Prominent growers unqualifiedly recommend the planting of whole tubers and argue that such a procedure results in better stands, earlier development, greater yields, and greater profits. Other growers equally as prominent reason that the old practice of cutting the tubers into a number of pieces is productive of best results under the conditions which prevail on most irrigated farms.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE.

In reviewing the literature of the subject it seems best to mention only conclusions based directly on experimental data.

S. Johnson2 concluded after four years of experimental work that whole tubers produce a greater total yield and also a greater yield of unmarketable potatoes than cut tubers.

D. D. Johnson3 found that whole tubers produced a greater number of vigorous stalks per hill than halved or quartered tubers, but that the increased number of stalks did not produce a relatively greater yield of potatoes.

Taft4 grew two varieties of potatoes from tubers planted whole and cut into halves, quarters, and eighths. He found halved tubers to be the most desirable when considered from the standpoint of net profit per acre.

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