

TNT Agriculture LLC—John Taberna Jr

Organic Potato Suggestions

1. Follow the organic rules that allow 70%, 90%, or 100% certifications.
2. Stay in contact with your states' organic certifier.
3. Listen to experts and attend the organic meetings.
4. Farm. Organic farming is just farming but with different rules and regulations. Follow them. Keep accurate records of farming practices.
5. Use good quality compost with excellent organic decomposition and records.
6. If possible, apply your compost following potato harvest and work it into the soil.
7. My opinion, apply compost around 10 tons about every 5 years.
8. Soil test to monitor at least the pH, NPK, Salts, and organic matter. If you start to get elevated nitrate or phosphorus levels from compost you will want to catch that sooner than later and then adjust accordingly.
9. Select nutrient efficient potato varieties.
10. Use OMRI registered or certified organic products.
11. Have good knowledge of timely cultivations from emergence to touching (one week before row closure, assuming they close).
12. After row closure, have roguing crew pull weeds once or twice.
13. Check and test for soil health such as earthworms, carbon dioxide, etc.
14. Test for beneficial to plant parasitic nematode communities/ratios
15. Monitor beneficial and harmful insects through field inspections and sticky traps. Use portions of borders for insect lures, especially beneficials and pollinators. Release beneficials if practical and necessary.
16. Use cover crops for the potatoes when necessary. Might be best following wheat the year before potatoes so that the stubble is broken down and nutrients are captured and recycled.
17. Increase your irrigation management skills. With different market types, it appears that organic potatoes use less water than conventional. This will be documented for the next few years.
18. Know your markets.