

SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. V-400

Prepared by Extension Horticulturist James Boudreaux

Irish Potatoes

1. Irish potatoes will produce over a wide soil pH range. However, the organism that causes the disease “scab” on Irish potatoes is more active at a pH above about 5.2. Therefore to reduce the incidence of “scab”, Irish potatoes should be grown on strongly acid soils (pH 5.2 or lower). If soil pH is below 4.5 a yield response will likely be realized by liming to a pH of 5.0 to 5.5.
2. Apply 50 to 100 pounds per acre of nitrogen prior to planting and 50 to 100 pounds per acre as a sidedressing after the plants emerge and prior to bloom. All phosphorous and potassium should be applied preplant.
3. For early harvest of a spring crop of Irish potatoes, growers should consider applying all nitrogen preplant, (150 pounds of nitrogen per acre), and avoid sidedressing.
4. For a fall crop of Irish potatoes, growers should avoid sidedressing. Apply 50 to 80 pounds nitrogen at planting.
5. Contact your county agent for additional information and help in your fertilization program. The agent also receives a copy of this report for the parish office files.