

EFFECT OF VARIED PLANTING TIME AND DEHAULMING ON THE YIELD POTENTIAL, PROCESSING QUALITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT IN POTATO*

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Abstract

A field experiment was conducted for producing higher processing grade tuber yield and quality by evaluating in relation to different planting times (31 October, 15 and 30 November) and dehaulming dates (80, 90 and 100 days after planting) during 2012-13 potato growing season at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Gazipur. Results revealed that different growth parameters like plant height, leaves number per hill and foliage coverage were significantly influenced by planting times. Processing and non processing grade tuber number and yield were significantly affected by all the treatments and their interaction. Significantly higher yield of processing grade tuber were recorded in November 15 planting in combination with all the dehaulming dates, ranged from 20.67 to 21.50 t/ha. Processing quality parameters like specific gravity, dry matter, reducing sugar content were significantly varied by planting times, dehaulming dates and their interaction. Whereas the potato chips colour score were not affected by the planting time and dehaulming but all the processing quality parameters were remained in acceptable range. The highest net return (Tk 1,68,404/ha) with a BCR of 1.93 was obtained in November 15 planting with dehaulming at 90 days after planting.

Introduction

The potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is one of the most important food crop in the world (Braun, 2010). Potato can be cultivated in many regions of the world and used for many purposes. Potato cultivation contributes to meeting the increasing need for food created by world population growth. Potato tubers accumulate large amounts of starch and are low in fat, and their protein content is comparable to that of grains. In addition, potatoes contain vitamin C (Rodriguez-Falcon *et al.*, 2006). Processing potatoes need some quality such as high dry matter, low reducing sugar etc. It is reported that desirable processing attributes greatly varied with location (Kumar *et al.*, 2003), time of sowing (Kumar *et al.*, 2007), cultivars, time of dehaulming (Marwaha, 1998; Marwaha *et al.*, 2005) and

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prevailing temperature during crop season (Pandey *et al.*, 2008). Among them, date of planting and haulm killing are the important practices for cultivating processing potatoes. Matured tubers are usually of high specific gravity and this is closely connected with high yield and quality of chips. Moreover, mature potatoes are less susceptible to damage during transport, storage and reconditioning. Maturity of potato tubers is closely connected with the date of planting and harvesting in particular regions, as well as weather condition prevailing in a given year (Lisinka and Leszezynski, 1989). The optimum temperature for potato growth is 15–20°C, with a lower limit of 5–10°C and an upper limit of 25°C (Haverkort, 1990; Prange *et al.*, 1990). Temperature and photoperiod during the growing season affect sugar and dry matter content of potatoes and, therefore, the chipping quality (Burton, 1989). Yamaguchi *et al.* (1964) reported that yield, specific gravity and starch content of tubers were the highest and sugar content lowest, when tubers were grown in soil temperature between 15 and 24°C, compared with tubers grown at higher temperatures. So, date of planting should be standardized based on the environmental factors for producing processing potato in any region. Delayed planting dates caused yield reduction (Krishnappa, 1991; Peter *et al.*, 1988). Muthuraj and Ravichandran (2014) and Muthuraj *et al.* (2005) opined that the planting time greatly affected tuber size distribution like- large, medium and small tuber yield in a locality differently within the varieties. Haulm killing is one of the methods used in potato production that regulate tuber size and quality. Dehaulming can be used to obtain a suitable tuber size, strengthen tuber skins before harvesting leading storage quality of potato (Struik and Wiersema, 1999). Interaction between date of planting and date of haulm killing maintained growth period which ultimately affect yield, tuber size distribution and quality. However, information regarding date of planting and dehaulming on processing grade tuber yield and quality is scanty in Bangladesh condition. Under such situations, need was felt to develop optimum planting time and crop growth duration for the maximization of processing grade tuber yield with quality and economical returns to potato growers and processors.

Materials and Method

This field experiment was conducted at the research field of Tuber Crops Research Center of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Gazipur during October 2012 to March 2013. The maximum and minimum mean air temperature of 23.1°C and 18.2°C was in November 2012 and January 2013, respectively. The soil of the experimental field was well drained sandy loam having a pH of 6.3. The variety was BARI Alu-28 (Lady Rosetta). The treatment consisted of 3 planting times of October 31 (D₁), November 15 (D₂) and November 30 (D₃) along with 3 dehaulming dates of 80 (M₁), 90 (M₂), 100 (M₃) days after planting (DAP). The treatments were arranged in a factorial

Randomized Complete Block Design with 3 replications. The unit plot size was 3.0 m × 3.0 m and tubers were planted at a spacing of 60 cm × 25 cm. Two outer rows of plants were treated as border rows, while the three middle rows in each plot were regarded as experimental row plants. The land was fertilized with 161-32-150-19-4-1.7 kg/ha, respectively of NPKSZnB fertilizers in addition to 6 t/ha of cowdung (Hossain *et al.*, 2007). The NPKSZnB fertilizers were applied in the forms of urea, triple super phosphate (TSP), muriate of potash (MoP), gypsum, Zinc sulphate and boric acid. The full amount of cowdung, TSP, MoP, gypsum, Zinc sulphate, boric acid, respectively and half of urea was applied at furrow and mixed up with soil by a tine before planting seed tubers. The rest half of urea was applied as top dress at 33 days after planting followed by irrigation. The well pre-sprouted, healthy, whole seed tubers of around 40±5 g sized were planted as per treatment in 2012. All other intercultural operations, like irrigation, weeding, earthing up and crop protection measures were adopted as per recommendation of TCRC, BARI. Plant stand was monitored and the final emergence count was taken at 30 days after planting. Dehaulming was done manually as per treatment and potato tubers were harvested after 10 days of dehaulming. Data on growth like plant height, number of compound leaves per hill, stem per hill were taken at 60 DAP from randomly selected 10 plants per plot, and yield per hectare was calculated during harvest from the middle rows yield. Foliage coverage was recorded at 60 DAP by using green method (Groves *et al.*, 2005). Harvested potato tubers were sorted to different size grades of <40 mm as non-process grade and ≥40 mm as processing grade. The weight and number of tubers in each size fraction was recorded. Tuber dry matter was estimated just after harvest with dried in oven at 80⁰ C to a constant weight. Reducing sugars were estimated following the method of Nelson (1944). For chipping, potatoes were hand peeled and cut into slices of 1.5-1.8 mm thickness with a manual slicing machine. The slices were washed thoroughly in cold water, air dried and immediately fried in soybean oil at 180⁰C till the bubbling on the chip surface stopped. The chips were scored visually for colour and assigned a value on a scale of 1–10, where 1 being the lightest and 10 dark brown (Ezekiel *et al.*, 2003). The cost of cultivation and gross returns from the crop were calculated on the basis of local market prices of inputs and farm gate price of potato. Net returns (Tk/ha) were worked out by subtracting the total cost of cultivation under each treatment from the gross return of respective treatment. Benefit cost ratio (BCR) was worked out by dividing the gross return with total cost of production (Kumar *et al.*, 2014; Kushwah and Singh, 2011). The data on growth, yield components and yield were statistically analysed by using computer package programme of MSTAT-C and means were compared by using Duncan's Multiple Range Test at 5% level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Growth attributes

Nearly 100% emergence was recorded at 30 days after planting (DAP) and the emergence was not significantly affected by date of planting, dehauling schedule and their interaction (Table 1). This might be due to around same size and healthy seed tubers were planted. Besides, more or less favourable soil temperature and moisture condition were prevailed same in all the plots. As dehauling schedule treatments were started after 80 days of planting, so obviously it did not affect plant emergence as well as other growth parameters like plant height, compound leaves per hill, stem per hill and foliage coverage (%). Plant height was significantly influenced by date of planting. The result showed that plant height decreased as the advancement of date of planting. Thirty first October planting (D_1) recorded the highest plant height (80.7 cm) as compared to D_2 and D_3 planting dates (Table 1). These differences in plant height can be attributed to the differences in the prevailing weather conditions. The highest plant height in D_1 planting can be attributed to the most favourable environment i.e. long period of high temperature for plant growth during the cropping season. The lowest plant height was recorded at D_3 planting can be due to the lower temperature experienced by the plants after emergence compared to other planting dates, thus lower temperature might have reduced allocation of assimilates for growth than the remaining two planting dates. Similar findings have also been reported by Sandhu *et al.* (2012), Singh and Khurana (1997) and Ezekiel and Bhargava (1992). Leaf number per hill was significantly influenced by date of planting and was insignificant in dehauling schedule and by the interaction between them (Table 1). The highest number of leaf per hill (67.1) was observed in D_2 planting followed by D_1 planting (63.5) and they did not differ significantly with each other. The lowest leaf number per hill (55.4) was recorded in D_3 planting. This can be ascribed due to first two planting dates experienced more favorable environmental conditions apparently longer period than D_3 planting. The leaf number per hill was ranging from 51.1 to 71.8 in the nine treatment combinations but their differences were non-significant. Stem per hill was not significantly influenced by dates of planting and dehauling and their interactions (Table 1). The stem per hill was ranged from 3.8 to 4.4 in the nine treatment combinations. This might be due to seed tuber size was more or less same. Per cent foliage coverage was not significantly influenced by date of planting, dehauling schedule and their interaction (Table 1). Around 100% foliage coverage was recorded by the main effects of date of planting, dehauling schedule and their interaction.

Table 1. Effect of dates of planting and dehauling on growth of potato

Treatments	Plant emergence (%)	Plant height (cm)	Leaf /hill (no.)	Stem/hill (no.)	Foliage coverage (%)
A. Date of planting					
D ₁	99.4	80.7a	63.5a	4.2	100.0a
D ₂	99.6	69.1b	67.1a	4.2	100.0a
D ₃	99.8	61.1c	55.4b	4.0	99.3b
B. Dehauling schedule					
M ₁	99.6	70.8	62.9	4.2	99.8
M ₂	99.4	69.4	62.0	4.3	99.7
M ₃	99.8	70.6	61.1	4.0	99.7
Interaction between A & B					
D ₁ M ₁	99.3	80.8	59.2	4.2	100.0
D ₁ M ₂	99.7	79.6	63.1	4.0	100.0
D ₁ M ₃	99.3	81.9	68.1	4.4	100.0
D ₂ M ₁	99.7	69.0	71.8	4.1	100.0
D ₂ M ₂	99.0	70.0	65.4	4.1	100.0
D ₂ M ₃	100.0	68.3	64.2	4.1	100.0
D ₃ M ₁	99.7	62.8	57.7	4.2	99.3
D ₃ M ₂	99.7	58.7	57.4	4.1	99.0
D ₃ M ₃	100.0	61.7	51.1	3.8	99.0
CV (%)	0.79	6.19	8.65	9.29	0.35
SE (A×B)	0.13	1.75	1.51	0.07	0.08

Figure(s) in a column having common letter(s) do not differ significantly at 5% level by DMRT.

D₁ = 31 October, D₂ = 15 November & D₃ = 30 November, and M₁ = 80 days after planting (DAP), M₂ = 90 DAP, D₃ = 100 DAP

Grades of tubers

Significantly higher non-processing grade tuber number per hill (4.1) was recorded when the crop was planted at 31 October (D₁) and it differed significantly with the other two planting dates (Table 2). The data shows that non processing grade tuber number per hill decreased significantly as lengthening the crop growth period by delaying dehauling (Table 2). The highest number of non processing grade tuber number per hill (3.7) was recorded at M₁ (dehauling at 80 DAP) and the lowest (2.9) was observed at M₃ (dehauling at 100 DAP). Similar results were reported by Kumar and Lal (2006). The combined effect of date of planting and dehauling schedule was significantly influenced non processing grade tuber number per hill (Table 2). The results revealed that non processing grade tuber number per hill was steadily decreased at every planting

dates by the dehauling schedule except D₃M₃ treatment combination. The highest number of non-processing grade tuber per hill (4.8) was recorded in D₁M₁ closely followed by D₁M₂ (4.6), but the differences were statistically similar. The lowest number of non processing grade tuber per hill (2.7) was observed in D₂M₃ followed by D₂M₂ and D₃M₂. At dehauling of 80 DAP, the crop period was comparatively short resultant full bulking not completed. As a consequence, non-processing grade tuber number per hill was higher in D₁M₁ and D₁M₂ treatment combination.

For processing grade tuber number per hill, the results were reversed in respect of non processing grade tuber number per hill. Processing grade tuber number per hill was highest (4.9) when the crop was planted at November 15 (D₂) closely followed by D₃ planting, but the differences were non-significant. With regard to dehauling, processing grade tuber number per hill was the highest (4.8) in M₃ (dehulming at 100 DAP) followed by M₂ (4.5) and M₁ (4.3). The combined effect of date of planting and dehauling was significantly influenced the processing grade tuber per hill (Table 2). The highest number of processing grade tuber per hill (5.0) was observed in D₂M₂, but it was statistically similar with D₂M₃, D₂M₁, D₁M₃, D₃M₁, D₃M₂ and D₃M₃. The lowest number of processing grade tuber per hill (3.6) was recorded at D₁M₁ which was statistically at par with D₁M₂ (3.7). Total tuber number per hill was not statistically influenced by combined effect of date of planting and dehauling (Table 2). In that case, total number of tuber per hill was ranged 7.5 to 8.4.

The highest weight of non processing grade tuber per hill (97.5 g) was recorded at D₁ planting and the lowest (70.0 g) was observed at D₂ planting closely followed by D₃ planting (70.9 g) (Table 2). This might be due to lesser growth period was received by the D₁ planting for bulking compared to others that caused smaller size of tuber. The results showed that the increase the crop growth period, the decrease the non-processing grade tuber weight per hill significantly. The highest weight of non-processing grade tuber weight per hill (90 g) was observed at M₁ dehauling which was at par with M₂ (84.4 g). However, the lowest weight of non-processing grade tuber (64.0 g) was observed in D₃ planting. It might be due to lengthen the crop growth period, which provided more accumulation of photosynthates for tuber bulking resulted more bigger size tuber and lessen the non-processing grade tuber . The combined effect of date of planting and dehauling was significantly influenced the non processing grade tuber weight per hill (Table 2). The highest weight of non-processing grade tuber per hill (114.4 g) was recorded in D₁M₁ which was also remained at par with D₁M₂ (111.1 g). Whereas, the lowest (67.6 g) was observed in D₃M₂ followed by D₃M₃ (68.0 g) and these were not significant.

Table 2. Effect of dates of planting and dehauling on yield components of potato

Treatments	Grades of tubers per hill (by number)			Grades of tubers per hill (by wt. (g))		
	<40 mm	≥40 mm	Total	<40 mm	≥40 mm	Total wt.
A. Date of planting						
D ₁	4.1 a	4.0 b	8.1	97.5 a	242.6 c	340.1 c
D ₂	2.9 b	4.9 a	7.8	70.0 b	327.3 a	396.9 a
D ₃	3.0 b	4.8 a	7.8	70.9 b	292.7 b	364.6 b
B. Dehauling schedule						
M ₁	3.7 a	4.2 b	7.9	90.0 a	272.7 c	362.7
M ₂	3.4 b	4.5 ab	8.0	84.3 a	286.9 b	371.2
M ₃	2.9 c	4.8 a	7.6	63.9 b	303.9 a	367.8
Interaction between A & B						
D ₁ M ₁	4.7 a	3.6 b	8.4	114.4 a	207.8 f	322.1 d
D ₁ M ₂	4.6 a	3.7 b	8.3	111.1 a	231.8 e	342.9 c
D ₁ M ₃	2.9 bc	4.7 a	7.6	67.1 bc	288.3 d	355.4 bc
D ₂ M ₁	3.3 b	4.6 a	7.9	78.4 b	317.6 bc	396.0 a
D ₂ M ₂	2.7 c	5.0 a	7.7	74.1 b	326.7 ab	400.8 a
D ₂ M ₃	2.7 c	5.0 a	7.7	56.5 c	337.5 a	394.1 a
D ₃ M ₁	3.1 bc	4.7 a	7.8	77.0 b	292.9 d	369.9 b
D ₃ M ₂	2.9 bc	5.0 a	7.9	67.6 bc	302.4 cd	370.0 b
D ₃ M ₃	3.0 bc	4.7 a	7.7	68.0 bc	285.8 d	353.8 bc
CV (%)	6.85	7.60	4.74	7.99	3.17	2.45
SE (A×B)	0.15	0.11	0.08	1.13	1.09	1.54

Figure(s) in a column having common letter(s) do not differ significantly at 5% level by DMRT.

<40 mm = Non processing grade tuber, ≥40 mm = Processing grade tuber.

D₁ = 31 October, D₂ = 15 November & D₃ = 30 November, and M₁ = 80 days after planting (DAP), M₂ = 90 DAP, D₃ = 100 DAP.

Processing grade tuber weight per hill was the highest (327.3 g) in D₂ planting followed by D₃ planting (292.7 g) and the lowest (242.6 g) in D₁ planting (Table 2). On the contrary, the results showed that the early the dehauling, the decrease the weight of processing grade tuber per hill significantly. In that case, the weight of processing grade tuber per hill was ranged between 272.7 to 303.9 g. The maximum weight of processing grade tuber per hill (337.5 g) was recorded in D₂M₃ which was statistically similar to D₂M₂ (326.7 g) while the

lowest (207.8 g) was observed in D₁M₁. Similar to processing grade tuber weight per hill, the highest total weight of tuber per hill (396.9 g) was obtained with D₂ planting, which was significantly higher than all other planting dates (Table 2). However, total weight of tuber per hill did not significantly influence by dehauling. These results revealed that processing and non processing grade tubers differed due to bulking period that regulates photosynthates transferred to tubers. The results are supported by the earlier findings of Kushwah and Singh (2008). There was significant variation was observed in total weight of tuber per hill by the combined effect of date of planting and dehauling (Table 2). The highest weight of total tuber per hill (400.8 g) was obtained in D₂M₂ followed by D₂M₁ (399.1 g) and D₂M₃ (394.1 g) and these were not differed significantly. However, the lowest (340.2 g) was observed in D₁M₁.

Yield

Yield of non-processing grade tubers was statistically differed with dates of planting and dehauling and their interaction (Table 3). The highest yield of non-processing grade tuber (7.2 t/ha) was recorded in D₁ planting, which was significantly higher than the other two planting dates and it was around 32% of the total produce. Similarly, the higher yield of non- processing grade tuber (6.5 t/ha) was obtained with dehauling at 80 DAP (M₁), which was significantly higher than all other dehauling dates, it was around 28%. These results corroborate the earlier findings of Singh and Kushwah (2010) where higher production of small size tubers obtained at earlier dehauling may be due to lesser time available for bulking. The maximum yield of non processing grade tuber (8.8 t/ha) was obtained in D₁M₁ followed by D₁M₂ (8.4 t/ha) and these were statistically similar and it was around 42% and 35% of the total yield, respectively (Table 3). Whereas, the lowest (3.8 t/ha) was observed in D₂M₃ which was around 26%. The data shows that at every planting date, yield of non-processing grade tuber was decreased by the delayed of dehauling except D₃M₃.

Yield of processing grade tuber was the highest (21.1 t/ha) in D₂ planting which was superior to all other dates of planting whereas percent contribution to total yield did not differ statistically (Table 3). That might be attributed to receive the longer period and optimum cold temperature during the bulking period resultant obtaining higher plant growth with the higher number and weight of tuber per hill. With regard to dehauling, although a little higher yield of processing grade tuber was recorded at M₃ in comparison to M₂ but these differences were not statistically significant. Whereas, the lowest (16.8 t/ha) was exhibited in M₁ dehauling. But the percentage of processing grade tuber to total yield did differ statistically (Table 3). There was consistent increase in per cent of processing grade tubers with delay in dehauling from 80 to 100 DAP and was highest

Table 3. Effect of dates of planting and dehauling on graded, total and percent of graded yield of potato

Treatments	Grade wise tuber yield (t/ha)			% of grade wise tuber yield	
	<40 mm	≥40 mm	Total	<40 mm	≥40 mm
A. Date of planting					
D ₁	7.2 a	14.7 c	21.9 c	31.9 a	68.1 b
D ₂	4.7 b	21.1 a	25.8 a	17.6 b	82.4 a
D ₃	4.7 b	18.6 b	23.3 b	19.3 b	80.7 a
B. Dehauling schedule					
M ₁	6.5 a	16.8 b	23.3	27.6 a	72.4 c
M ₂	5.8 b	18.3 ab	24.1	23.5 b	76.5 b
M ₃	4.3 c	19.3 a	23.6	17.6 c	82.4 a
Interaction between A & B					
D ₁ M ₁	8.8 a	11.3e	20.1 d	41.8 a	58.2 e
D ₁ M ₂	8.4 a	14.5 d	22.9 c	35.2 b	64.8 d
D ₁ M ₃	4.5 c-e	18.2 c	22.7 c	18.8 cd	81.2 bc
D ₂ M ₁	5.4 b	20.9 ab	26.3 a	20.1 cd	80.0 bc
D ₂ M ₂	4.7 b-d	21.4 a	26.1 a	17.4 cd	82.6 ab
D ₂ M ₃	3.8 e	21.5 a	25.3 ab	14.3 e	85.7 a
D ₃ M ₁	5.1 bc	18.5 c	23.6 bc	20.9 c	79.2 c
D ₃ M ₂	4.2 de	19.2 bc	23.4 c	17.2 de	82.8 ab
D ₃ M ₃	4.7 b-d	18.1c	22.8 c	19.8 cd	80.2 bc
CV (%)	8.03	5.82	4.39	8.18	2.43
SE (A×B)	0.34	0.64	0.39	1.72	1.72

Figure(s) in a column having common letter(s) do not differ significantly at 5% level by DMRT.

<40 mm = Non processing grade tuber, ≥40 mm = Processing grade tuber.

D₁ = 31 October, D₂ = 15 November & D₃ = 30 November, and M₁ = 80 days after planting (DAP), M₂ = 90 DAP, D₃ = 100 DAP.

(around 82%) when dehauling was done at 100 DAP then it declined significantly up to 80 DAP. It has been ascribed that the increase the proportion of processing grade tuber probably mainly because of the lengthening the growing period that resulted more accumulation of photosynthates in the tuber and ultimately increase larger tuber. The results are in agreement with Sandhu *et al.* (2012) where they reported that total and processing grade tuber yield

increased significantly as the crop duration was increased from 70 to 90 days. Where the proportion of processing grade tubers yield was increased in 39% and 28% and total yield was increased in 19% and 9% when the crop was dehaulmed at 70 to 80 and 80 to 90 days after planting, respectively. Significant variation was observed among the treatment combinations in processing grade tuber yield (Table 3). The results show that significantly higher yield of processing grade tuber was observed in D₂ planting under all the dehaulming dates. Whereas, the lowest processing grade tuber yield (11.3 t/ha) was recorded in D₁M₁ which was around 58% of the total yield. The data shows that, the processing grade tuber yield was statistically similar in D₂ planting under all the dehaulming dates but their per cent contributions to total yield was statistically differed. The highest proportion of processing grade tuber yield (around 86%) was obtained in D₂M₃ which was statistically similar to D₃M₂ (around 83%) and D₂M₂ (around 83%). Kushwah and Govindakrisnan (1993) reported that maximum tubereization takes place at mean temperatures of day and night about 20°C and it was inhibited at day temperatures above 29°C. Our results are in favour of this statement, in D₂M₂ and D₂M₃ treatment combination were received just mean temperatures of around 20°C in their tuberization and maturation period that might be helped in good processing grade tuber formation and on the contrary in D₃M₃ combination was fetched above 29°C temperatures resulting the lower processing grade as well as total yield.

The data of the table 3 shows that total yield was followed the exact same trend of processing grade tuber yield. The highest total yield (25.9 t/ha) was recorded in D₂ planting than all other dates of planting. The second highest total yield (23.2 t/ha) was observed in D₃ planting followed by D₁ planting (21.9 t/ha) and these were statistically significant. The lower yield at earlier planting (D₁, 31 October) might be due to exposure of crop to high temperature at the time of planting and early growth period (Roy and Jaiswal, 1998; Singh *et al.*, 1974) and has received short duration of low temperature in bulking period. The highest yield at November 15 planting has been reported under similar climatic and edaphic conditions by Akhter *et al.* (2013). The results also corroborated with Singh *et al.* (2004) where they reported that planting at 5 November decreased not only the total and processing grade tubers, but also the percentage of the processing grade tubers in the total tuber yield at Modipuram, India. For dehaulming, it was observed that although a little higher total yield (24.1 t/ha) was recorded in M₂ dehaulming closely followed by M₃ dehaulming (23.6 t/ha) and M₁ dehaulming (23.4 t/ha), these differences were not statistically significant (Table 3). There was significant variation among treatment combinations in total tuber yield (Table 3). The results showed that significantly higher total yield was observed in D₂ planting under all the dehaulming dates and the second higher total yield was recorded in D₃ planting under all the

dehauling dates except M₃. The results also showed that third higher total yield was recorded in D₁ planting under all the dehauling schedules except M₁ with the D₃ planting in combination with M₃. Whereas, the lowest total yield (20.1 t/ha) was obtained in D₁ planting with M₁ dehauling. Short period of low and high prevailing temperature might have limited tuber bulking in D₁ and D₃ planted crop, respectively.

Processing quality parameters

For processing potatoes into chips and French fries, dry matter content should be 20 % or above because it determines the recovery of finished products, oil uptake and energy consumption for frying (Ezekiel *et al.*, 1999; Gaur *et al.*, 1999; Marwaha *et al.*, 2005). Potato tuber dry matter, sugar and reducing sugar content mostly influenced by the varietal genetic make up but environmental and cultural factors are reported to affect the resulting sugar accumulation in freshly harvested tubers (Sowokinos, 1973). The results show that specific gravity and dry matter content were followed the same trend by the date of planting and

dehauling and their interaction (Table 4). The highest specific gravity as well as dry matter content (1.089 and 22.6 %, respectively) was observed in D₂ planting followed by D₁ planting (1.086 and 22.0%, respectively) whereas, the lowest specific gravity (1.083) and dry matter (21.4 %) was recorded in D₃ planting (Table 4). These findings are in line with earlier works of Akhter *et al.* (2013) who reported higher dry matter and chipping quality were obtained in November 15 planting. In case of dehauling, both specific gravity and dry matter content (1.087 and 22.3 %, respectively) were higher in tubers M₁ which was at par with M₂ and the lowest (1.085 and 21.7 %, respectively) was obtained in M₃. The highest specific gravity (1.090) as well as dry matter content (22.9 %) was recorded in D₂M₂ followed by D₂M₃ (1.090 and 22.8 %, respectively), D₂M₁ (1.087, and 22.2 %, respectively) and D₁M₁ (1.088 and 22.6 %, respectively). Whereas, the lowest specific gravity (1.081) and dry matter content (21.0 %) was obtained in D₃M₃. It may be occurred in this combination due to slightly higher temperatures in the mid of spring season could have resulted in faster maturity of foliage and lesser translocation of dry matter in tubers in the last phase of crop life which ultimately lower the dry matter content (Kumar *et al.*, 2007; Marinus and Bodlaender, 1975). The level of reducing sugars in potato tuber is an important factor affecting the colour of processed products (Roe *et al.*, 1990). The contents of reducing sugars should be below 200 mg/100g fresh weight for producing acceptable quality chips while for French fries the upper limit may be as high as 500 mg/100g fresh weight (Ezekiel *et al.*, 2003). The results showed that the reducing sugar content was much lower than the acceptable limit for processing into chips and French fries.

Table 4. Effect of dates of planting and dehauling on processing quality of potato

Treatments	Specific gravity	Dry matter (%)	RS (mg/100 g fresh wt.)	Chip colour score
A. Date of planting				
D ₁	1.086 b	22.0 b	36.5 b	3.1
D ₂	1.089 a	22.64 a	32.5 c	3.0
D ₃	1.083 c	21.4 c	41.1 a	3.2
B. Dehauling schedule				
M ₁	1.087 a	22.3 a	34.9 b	3.1
M ₂	1.086 ab	22.0 ab	37.5 a	3.1
M ₃	1.085 b	21.7 b	37.6 a	3.2
Interaction between A & B				
D ₁ M ₁	1.088 ab	22.6 ab	37.7 c	3.1
D ₁ M ₂	1.087 b	22.1 b	37.3 c	3.1
D ₁ M ₃	1.083 c	21.4 c	34.5 d	3.2
D ₂ M ₁	1.087 ab	22.2 ab	33.0 e	3.1
D ₂ M ₂	1.090 a	22.9 a	31.7 f	3.0
D ₂ M ₃	1.090 a	22.8 a	32.8 e	3.1
D ₃ M ₁	1.086 b	22.0 b	34.1 d	3.2
D ₃ M ₂	1.082 c	21.1 c	43.5 b	3.2
D ₃ M ₃	1.081c	21.0 c	45.6 a	3.2
CV (%)	0.34	3.73	7.33	8.05

Figure(s) in a column having common letter(s) do not differ significantly at 5% level by DMRT.

D₁ = 31 October, D₂ = 15 November & D₃ = 30 November ; and M₁ = 80 days after planting (DAP), M₂ = 90 DAP, D₃ = 100 DAP ; RS = Reducing sugar

The highest reducing sugar (41.1 mg/100 g fresh wt.) was obtained in D₃ planting followed by D₁, while the lowest (32.5 mg/100 g fresh wt.) was recorded in D₂ planting (Table 4). In case of dehauling, the highest reducing sugar (37.6 mg/100 g fresh wt.) was obtained in M₃ which was statistically similar to M₂. While the lowest (34.9 mg/100g fresh wt.) was recorded in M₁. The highest reducing sugar (45.6 mg/100 g fresh wt.) was recorded in D₃M₃ followed by D₃M₂, while, the lowest reducing sugar (31.7 mg/100 g fresh wt.) was obtained in D₂M₂ followed by D₂M₃ and D₂M₁. Reducing sugar content was increased in D₃M₂ and D₃M₃ might be due to effect of high soil temperature. Timm *et al.* (1968) reported that sugar content increases if tuber is exposed to soil temperatures above 25°C. Chips colour, the most important visual criterion for evaluating the quality of fried products, was mainly dependent on Millard

reaction between reducing sugars and amino acids present in the tuber (Roe *et al.*, 1990; Marwaha, 1999). The results showed that chips colour scores were remained significantly unaffected by date o planting, dehauling schedule and their interaction (Table 4). The chips colour scores were around 3 which belong to acceptable range. However, Kumar *et al.* (2003) categorized the chips colour as a score of 1-2 are considered excellent, 3-4 are considered good and >5 is considered unacceptable.

Table 5. Economics of processing potato production as influenced by dates of planting and dehauling

Treatments	Total cost of production (Tk/ha)	Gross return (Tk/ha)	Net return (Tk/ha)	BCR
D ₁ M ₁	1,80,886	2,22,176	41,291	1.23
D ₁ M ₂	1,80,886	2,66,933	86,048	1.48
D ₁ M ₃	1,80,886	3,00,149	1,19,263	1.66
D ₂ M ₁	1,80,886	3,42,665	1,61,779	1.89
D ₂ M ₂	1,80,886	3,49,290	1,68,404	1.93
D ₂ M ₃	1,80,886	3,45,114	1,64,228	1.91
D ₃ M ₁	1,80,886	3,08,763	1,27,877	1.71
D ₃ M ₂	1,80,886	3,12,447	1,31,561	1.73
D ₃ M ₃	1,80,886	2,98,770	1,17,884	1.65

Considering local market price of 2012-13, Urea, TSP, MOP, Gypsum, Zinc sulphate, Boric acid and cowdung @ Tk 15, 23, 17, 7, 170, 295 and 1/kg, respectively; Seed of potato @ Tk 30/kg, labour @ Tk 300/man-day; Sale of potato @ Tk 15/kg for ≥ 40 mm and Tk 6/kg for <40 mm size; D₁ M₁ = 31 October \times 80 DAP; D₁ M₂ = 31 October \times 90 DAP ; D₁ M₃ = 31 October \times 100 DAP ;D₂ M₁ = 15 November \times 80 DAP ; D₂ M₂ = 15 November \times 90 DAP ; D₂ M₃ = 15 November \times 100 DAP ; D₃ M₁ = 30 November \times 80 DAP ; D₃M₂ = 30 November \times 90 DAP ; D₃ M₃ = 30 November \times 100 DAP

Economics

Cost of cultivation were remained same for all the treatment combinations because date of planting and dehauling dates did not vary any input cost and the requirement of labourers (Table 5). Maximum gross returns (Tk 3,49,290) was recorded in D₂M₂ followed by D₂M₃ (Tk 3,45,114) and D₂M₁ (Tk 3,42,665). The minimum gross return (Tk 2,22,176) was observed in D₁M₁. Net return showed marked difference among the treatment combinations and was followed the same trend of gross return as the total cost of cultivation was remained same in all the treatment combination. Net return was the highest (Tk 1,68,404) in D₂M₂ followed by D₂M₃ (Tk 1,64,228) and D₂M₁ (Tk 1,61,779) while the lowest (Tk 41,291) in D₁M₁. Higher net returns were mainly attributed to higher yield specially processing grade which got premium price associated with that treatment combinations. The maximum benefit cost ratio (BCR) (1.93) was obtained in D₂M₂ closely followed by D₂M₃ (1.91) and D₂M₁ (1.89) while the minimum (1.23) was

in D₁M₁. The cost and return analysis revealed that November 15 (D₂) planting regardless of dehauling schedule economically superior to November 30 and October 31 planting in terms of net income and BCR.

Conclusion

The above results revealed that processing quality especially dry matter and reducing sugar differed significantly by dates of planting and dehauling. Processing grade tuber yield were the higher in November 15 planting with all the dehauling dates with high dry matter content and low reducing sugar. But we can prefer dehauling at 90 DAP considering higher processing grade tuber yield with higher dry matter including higher net return and BCR. Besides it, the land can be available 10 days earlier for next crops without affecting processing quality and processing grade tuber yield as well as total yield. Based on the results of the experiment, it can be concluded that farmers at the areas of agro-ecological zone 28 can grow potato following November 15 planting time plus dehauling at 90 days after planting for achieving higher processing grade tuber yield and net returns.

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