

EVALUATION OF COMPOST IN ORGANIC POTATOES

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Organic farming, the production of agricultural products without inputs of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, has become a profitable area of farming in recent years. Compost is an organic fertilizer and soil amendment that is commonly used in organic farming to provide nutrients and improve soil tilth. This trial was conducted by the Elmore County Extension staff to evaluate the use of compost in organic potato production under Elmore County conditions.

METHODS

The trial was established on a certified organic potato field near Hammett, Idaho. Compost was applied to the plots on April 11, 1997. The compost was weighed, spread into opened hills and incorporated. The treatments (a check, and compost applied at 5, 15, and 25 T/A) were arranged in a randomized complete block with four replications. Ranger russet potatoes were planted by