



Recommendation Sheet No. 32  
(October 1985)

### CONTROL OF COMMON SCAB DISEASE OF POTATO

During recent years common scab disease of potato caused by Streptomyces scabies has gained importance in potato plantations, especially in some varieties like Up to Date, due to seed borne infection.

Such transmission can be effectively controlled by dusting tubers with :

**Dithane M45 at 3 kg per tonne of seeds**

The following procedure should be used :

- 10 kg of seeds are placed in a large paper or plastic bag (e.g. a clean 50 kg polyethylene fertilizer bag)
- 30 g of Dithane M 45 are added on top of tubers
- open end of the bag is folded
- bag is inverted some 10 times to ensure a uniform coating on the tubers.

This treatment will break most sprouts. Cool stored or physiologically old seeds which tend to sprout heavily should be treated before the sprouts are 2 mm long. In the case of young seeds, damage to sprouts is not important as other strong ones will emerge.

#### NOTE :

The organism causing common scab is present in most soils of Mauritius but the disease is severe only in fields in which the inoculum level is high or in which sand/lime has been applied, and when dry conditions prevail. Potato cultivation should be avoided in such fields.

As it has been observed that factory scums favour the development of the common scab organism, growers are advised not to apply scums in potato furrows nor to plant on the very spots where scums have been piled up prior to distribution in cane fields.