Control of Common Scab of Potato Through Seed Treatment

Asif Ur Rehman Khan, Duri Iman Khan, Ihsanul Haq, Ijaz Hussain, Muhammad Sajid and Siddique Akbar Siddiqui

Potato, Research Centre, Abbottabad, Pakistan, IUCN, Peshwar, Pakistan

Abstract: Two chemical viz. 3% boric acid solution and 3% elemental sulphur solution each for two different duration of times i.e. 10 and 20 min were evaluated against common scab of potato at Battakundi Farm in Kaghan valley in summer 2001. Both the chemicals gave significant control of the disease incidence as compared to the control. However T3 gave the best results among all the treatments in terms of disease incidence and disease severity. No significant difference was observed in both chemicals in terms of yield.

Key words: Chemical control, Potato, common scab

Introduction

The potato crop in Pakistan is cultivated on more than 108800 hectares with a production of 1616100 tones with an average yield of 14.9 t ha⁻¹ (APCOM 1998-99).

Nutritionally Potato is a wholesome food it is a good source of carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Moisture accounts for 80% of the bulk and the remaining 20% dry matter contain about 17% carbohydrates (mainly starch) and 2% proteins, the rest being fiber and minerals.

The disease common scab is caused by a bacterium Streptomyces scabies and is both soil as well as tuber borne disease. Soil and tuber borne disease are multifaceted in nature. They not only cause economic losses to potato crop but are also carried over from season to season through seed tubers soil. Although the disease does not cause yield reduction but disfigure the tubers and thereby reduce their marketability leading to low economic returns (Dutt and Pushkarnath, 1960; Pushkarnath, 1960 and Pushkarnath et al., 1966). The disease mainly affects the young tubers and its infection stops with the ripening of tubers. The earliest symptoms on tubers appear as small, circular to irregular lesions around the lenticulas, with periderm turning brown and rough (Paharia and Pushkarnath, 1963). Infected tubers and soil serve as the primary source of inoculum. The pathogen is carried through the infected seed tubers to the soil where it multiplies, spreads and infects the crop under favourable conditions. Sing et al. (1986) and Shekawat (1990) reported the pathogen throughout the Indian state of HP but observed that the pathogen was more severe in Lahoul valley where its incidence goes as high as 100%.
Materials and Methods

In the experiment there were 10 treatments replicated four times in RCB Design. There were four rows in each treatment with a 4 m length. Row to row distance was 75 cm with 25 cm plant to plant distance. Potato seed tubers were subjected to the following treatments prior to sowing.

Treatments

\( T_1 \) = Infected seed treated with 3% boric acid solution for 10 minutes.
\( T_2 \) = Infected seed treated with 3% boric acid solution for 20 minutes.
\( T_3 \) = Healthy seed treated with 3% boric acid solution for 10 minutes.
\( T_4 \) = Healthy seed treated with 3% boric acid solution for 20 minutes.
\( T_5 \) = Infected seed treated with 3% elemental sulphur solution for 10 minutes.
\( T_6 \) = Infected seed treated with 3% elemental sulphur solution for 20 minutes.
\( T_7 \) = Healthy seed dipped in 3% elemental sulphur solution for 10 minutes.
\( T_8 \) = Healthy seed dipped in 3% elemental sulphur solution for 20 minutes.
\( T_9 \) = Infected seed untreated.
\( T_{10} \) = Healthy seed untreated.

The experiment was conducted at Battakundi Farm situated in Kaghan Valley in summer 2001. Recommended doses of N.P.K was applied @ 120-120-180 kg ha\(^{-1}\). Whole of P and K were applied at the time of land preparation while half of the N\(_2\) was applied at planting and the remaining half was applied at the time of first earththingup.

Results and Discussion

%Emergence

Table 1 shows that \( T_{10} \), \( T_2 \), \( T_3 \) and \( T_{10} \) gave highest % emergence and is significantly different from \( T_1 \). There is no significant difference among all other treatments. There seems to be no adverse effect of both chemicals on plant emergence on the whole. The results are in accordance with the findings of Sengupta (1992).

Stem density

The highest numbers of stems were recorded in \( T_2 \), \( T_3 \) is significantly different from \( T_1 \), \( T_4 \), \( T_6 \) and \( T_{10} \). There is no significant difference between \( T_{27} \), \( T_{29} \), \( T_{27} \), \( T_7 \), \( T_8 \) and \( T_{10} \). The lowest numbers of stems were recorded in \( T_9 \) (Table 1).

Number of marketable tubers

The highest numbers of marketable tubers were recorded in \( T_{10} \) which is health seeds untreated followed by \( T_4 \) and \( T_{10} \), while the lowest were observed in \( T_1 \). \( T_{10} \) is significantly different from \( T_1 \), \( T_2 \) and \( T_{10} \). There is no significant difference between \( T_{27} \), \( T_{29} \), \( T_{27} \), \( T_7 \), \( T_8 \), \( T_{10} \), \( T_7 \), \( T_8 \) and \( T_{10} \). The highest number of marketable tubers were obtained in a control treatment which shows that the pathogen does not affect the yield but it only disfigure the tubers which resulted
in low economic return to the farmers in the market. The results are in accordance with those of Dutt and Pushkarnath (1960) and Pushkarnath et al. (1966).

**Weight of marketable size tubers (kg)**

The highest weight of tubers was observed in T<sub>10</sub> while the lowest was in T<sub>9</sub>, T<sub>10</sub>, T<sub>6</sub> and T<sub>7</sub> were observed significantly different from T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> in terms of weight of tubers.

**Numbers of small tubers**

The highest numbers of small tubers were observed in T<sub>2</sub> while the lowest were observed in T<sub>1</sub>. T<sub>3</sub> is significantly different from T<sub>7</sub>, T<sub>8</sub>, T<sub>9</sub>, T<sub>10</sub>, T<sub>11</sub>, T<sub>12</sub>, T<sub>4</sub> and T<sub>7</sub>. There is no significant difference among the treatment T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>4</sub>, T<sub>5</sub>, T<sub>6</sub>, T<sub>7</sub>, T<sub>8</sub>, T<sub>9</sub> and T<sub>10</sub>.

**Weight of small tuber (kg)**

The highest weight in kg was observed in T<sub>2</sub> while the lowest weight was observed in T<sub>9</sub> and T<sub>1</sub> is significantly different form T<sub>10</sub>, T<sub>12</sub>, T<sub>9</sub>, T<sub>7</sub> and T<sub>11</sub> (Table 1).

**Incidence of common scab (%)**

The highest % of disease incidence was observed in T<sub>8</sub> followed by T<sub>10</sub> while the lowest disease incidence was observed in T<sub>1</sub>. T<sub>3</sub> was found significantly different from T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>9</sub>, T<sub>10</sub>, T<sub>4</sub> and T<sub>11</sub>. Both the chemicals effectively control the disease as compared to the check (i.e. T<sub>9</sub> and T<sub>10</sub>). However the best results were obtained when healthy seeds were treated with 3% boric acid solution for 10 minutes in controlling the disease. The results were in accordance with the findings of Sengupta (1993).

**Severity of disease (%)**

The disease severity was more in T<sub>3</sub> followed by T<sub>7</sub>. The lowest disease severity was
observed in T3. Both the chemicals significantly lowers the disease severity as compared to the control but among these two chemicals there was no significant difference. The results are in agreement with the findings of Somani and Shekhawat (1985) and Somani (1988).

Numbers of bored tubers

The highest number of bored tubers was observed in T1 while the lowest number of bored tubers was observed in T4 and T5. T1 is significantly different from T4 and T5 in terms of bored tubers. No significant difference was observed between T2, T3, T9, T10, T11, T12, T5 and T11.

Weight of bored tubers (kg)

The highest weight of bored tubers were observed in T1 while the lowest weight of bored tubers in kg was observed in T4. T1 is significantly different from T4 only in terms of weight of bored tubers.

Yield (kg)

The highest yield was observed in T2 followed by T10. Although the highest yield was obtained in T2 but there was no significant difference between T2 (infected seed treated with 3% boric acid solution for 20 min) and T10 (healthy seed untreated) which shows that the pathogen does not affect the yield but it lowers down the quality of tubers only. The results are in accordance with Dutt and Pushkarnath (1960) and Pushkarnath et al. (1966).

References

Dutt, B.L. and Pushkarnath, 1960. Resistance of potato varieties to powdery scab. Indian Potato J., 2: 78-82.


