

Potato Newsletter

July/August 2019

BLIGHT

Plan your end of season programme based on whether crops are going into long term storage or not. As recommended in the June newsletter, in crops that are destined for long term storage do not use Fluazinam (Shirlan, Volley etc.) as the main fungicide due to the risk of poor control if the Dark Green 37_A2 strain of blight (which is resistant) being present.

While we know that this strain is present in the UK and Europe in 2018 we still don't know yet if it is present in Ireland. Teagasc would still like to get some samples to test if we have this strain so if you see blight please contact your local Teagasc advisor so we can test it.

The Euroblight tables show Ranman Top (Cyazofamid) to be one of the best fungicides in controlling tuber blight, however a good blight programme which prevents infection from happening in the first place regardless of the products used, is the best strategy rather than relying on a single product at the end of the season.

Table 1: Mid-late season blight products

Product	Rate/Ha	Notes
Ranman Top	0.5 L	Good on leaf blight and tuber blight
Shirlan, Volley, Ticza, Farmco Blitz, Fluazinova	0.4 L	Popular mid-late season product (Note; change in recommendations for 2019 see June newsletter)
Option, CW50, Cymbal	0.15 - 0.25 kgs (Check Label)	Curative products but use in a tank mix only
Curzate M, Moximate, Nautile	2.3 - 2.5 Kgs (Check Label)	Good in curative situations
Revus	0.6 L	Very good on leaf blight
Proxanil	2.5 L	Normally used in slot 4 or 5
<u>Kunshi</u> Grecale	<u>0.5 Kgs</u> 0.6 L	Preformulated "Shirlan/Option" mixes
Valbon	1.6 Kgs	Good leaf blight control
Zorvec	0.15 L	Use with a partner product gives 10 days control

Controlling the leaf infection will help to prevent zoospores being produced which can fall down into the soil and infect the tubers. Therefore, the programme from stable canopy onwards needs to ensure that there are no outbreaks of blight. Table 1 below shows fungicide options for mid-late season.

DESICCATION

2019 is the last year that diquat will be available for desiccation. Therefore growers are going to have to try alternatives to see which suits best in their own circumstances. While none of the solutions are as "convenient" as using Diquat, with careful planning they can work.

Currently there are three alternatives;

1. Carfentrazone-ethyl (Spotlight Plus) is freely available and can be used on crops.

Pros- good on stems, little risk of damage to the tuber even in dry conditions, one application (@ 1.0L/ha) vs two applications for diquat (1.0L/ha + 3.0L/ha).

Cons- some growers claim that it is slower acting on leaves than diquat, in dull conditions, so multiple applications of blight fungicide may be needed even after application.

2. Haulm topping- common when crops are being harvested green top.

Pros- stops crop growth and tuber bulking quicker than chemical desiccation.

Cons- Slower operation, risk of spreading disease especially blight if it is already in the crop, potential for bird damage. May still need an application of carfentrazone-ethyl to complete the process.

3. Gas Burner- used in organic production.

Pros- Instant kill, low risk of disease spread subsequently.

Cons- new equipment needed, slow process, expensive.

Some growers last year have experimented

with mixing trace elements such as boron, which can be toxic to the plants, with carfentrazone however little work has been done in recent times to evaluate how effective these are.

The only other alternative is for natural senescence which for most growers is not an option as there is an increased risk of disease infection, also tubers will continue to swell and may result in higher waste as well as delaying harvest.

PESTS

The recent wet weather is ideal for slug activity, once there is good ground cover on the crops consider starting applications. Trials from the UK over several years have demonstrated that the key timing for pellet application is just before the crop canopy meets across the rows. Where this timing is missed control is generally not as consistent. Trials by AHDB Potatoes have shown that three applications has given good reductions in slug damage:

1. Just before crop canopy meets across drills (mid-late June);
2. 3-4 weeks later if there has been rainfall (late July)
3. At burning down of the crop (mid-late August)

Table 2: Approved slug pellets 2019

Product Name	Active Ingredient	Rate of Use (kg/ha)	Max total dose (Kg/ha)
Axcela	Metaldehyde 3%	7	21
Farmco Slugs/ Gusto 3	Metaldehyde 3%	11.5	
Metarex Inov	Metaldehyde 40g/kg	5	17.5
SluXX HP/ Derrex/ Ironxx	Ferric Phosphate	7	28

Plan to have an application before the end of July when the keeled slug appears above the ground as this is the only time of the year when they come to the surface and pellets can have an effect.

Aphid pressure is high this year if spring cereal crops are anything to go by, therefore the pressure on potato seed crops is likely to be high also. The peach potato aphid (*Mysus Persciae*) is the main vector and is resistant to dimethoate. However there are alternatives many based on lambda-cyhalothrin. Avoid using these products in sequence, they need to be alternated with other actives.

Mineral oils such as Headland Fortune can also be used as they slow down the initial feeding and thereby slow down the transmission of the virus.

Table 3: 2019 approved potato insecticides

Product Name	Active ingredient	Rate per ha (L/Ha)	Harvest interval days	Total no of applications
Biscaya	Thiacloprid 240g/l	0.4 l	14	1 for ware; 2 for seed
Closer	Sulfoxaflor 120g/l	0.2 l	7	1 for ware; 2 for seed
Coragen	Chlorantraniliprole 200g/l	60mls	14	2
Insyst	Acetamiprid	250 gms	14	1 for ware; 2 for seed
Movento	Spirotetramat 150g/l	0.5 l	14	4
Teppeki	Flonicamid 500g/l	0.16 kgs	14	2
Benevia	Cyantraniliprole 100g/l	750 mls		2
Karate Zeon	lambda-Cyhalothrin 100g/l	75 mls		4
Karis 10 CS	lambda-Cyhalothrin 100g/l	75 mls		4 seed and ware
Life Scientific Lambda	lambda-Cyhalothrin 100g/l	76 mls		4
Markate 50	lambda-Cyhalothrin 50g/l	150 mls		4
Ninja 10CS	lambda-Cyhalothrin 100g/l	75 mls		4 seed and ware
Ravane	lambda-Cyhalothrin 50g/l	150 mls		4
Sparviero	lambda-Cyhalothrin 100g/l	75 mls		4

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