



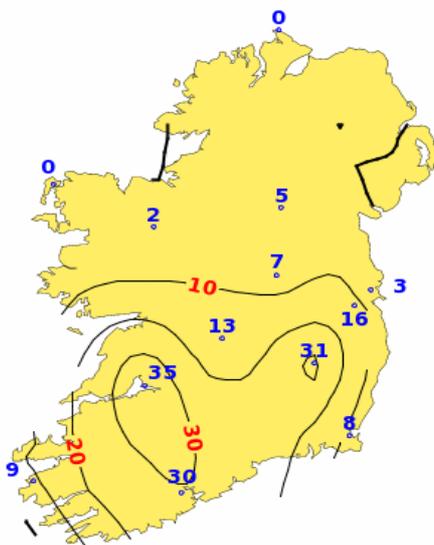
BLIGHT

While there are few reports of blight in crops at the moment thundery showers could trigger an outbreak at any time. Use the dry weather to keep programmes up to date. Most crops are at or approaching stable canopy stage with only the very last planted crops approaching the rapid canopy growth stage. Systemic products will be best used at the rapid canopy stage but at the stable canopy stage some of the contact products will suffice.

rutting of tramlines could become an issue over the coming weeks. Watch out for water filling the tramlines as these will become a potential source of blight due to the water splashing off the fungicide and mechanical damage.

Where patches of blight are getting out of control ie. around poles and in corners consider burning off these patches to avoid it spreading throughout the fields. Be wary where you see dumps, back garden growers or volunteers in neighbouring cereal crops do not let the intervals widen beyond 7 days.

**Soil Moisture Deficit
(Moderately Drained Soil)
Thr 7 Jul 2016**



Many parts of the country are near field capacity for moisture so

Many early planted crops benefitted from the very warm weather in early June followed by rain which has resulted in many crops especially pinks having a very big canopy. Keep water volumes up to 400l/ha and use low drift nozzles that will penetrate the canopy. Where there is any evidence of blight include a cymoxanil product to help curativity. See the list of available fungicides for 2016 attached.

PESTS

The annual battle with slugs is under way with applications of pellets beginning as soon as the canopy closes in. Start off with a couple of



half rates of pellets with the aim to have a full rate on the ground at the end of July. This is to target the keeled slug (Fig 1) which only comes above the ground then to mate and will then disappear underground for the rest of the season.

Fig 1.



Unfortunately varieties like Rooster, Maris Piper and Cara have little resistance to slug damage therefore over half of the potatoes in Ireland are susceptible to slug damage. Varieties like Lady Rosetta and Pentland Dell would have high resistance to slugs.

Where you find that you have a crop that is in a "sluggy" field, plan to harvest them as early as possible in an effort to reduce the overall damage and subsequent losses. The longer that the crop is left in the ground the likelihood is that more damage will occur.

While aphid numbers appear to be low in crops take care not to leave crops destined for seed in 2017 untreated. Alternate products as a method of resistance management.

Do not rely on a single product to provide control throughout the season. If you are applying to ware crops make sure to adhere to harvest intervals when digging green top.

FERTILISER

For most crops it is now too late for topdressing crops with nitrogen. Topping up with nitrogen at this stage can increase canopy size but it can also delay maturity which can lead to delayed harvest, increased tuber damage and increased harvest costs.

UP COMMING EVENTS

Potatoes in Practice 2016 takes place in the James Hutton Institute Balruddery Farm near Dundee on August 11th. There will be variety, nutritional and machinery demonstrations on show.

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