AGRI LINK | EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Potatoes NEW ZEALAND

Sustainable Vegetable Systems

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Beyond promotion to toe dipping

Potatoes NZ Agronomy Summit

August 2026

Andrew Barber – Agrilink NZ

Horticultural Industry Approach

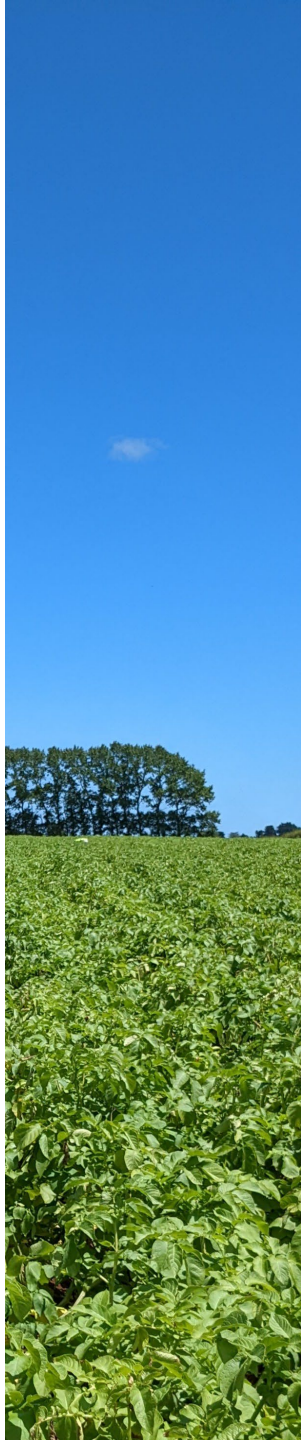
2026 Nutrient Code of Practice

The Code of Practice provides a practical, risk-based approach to managing nutrients.

The associated nutrient management plan workbook is designed to make the process of planning and recording as efficient as possible.

Code of Practice

Workbook



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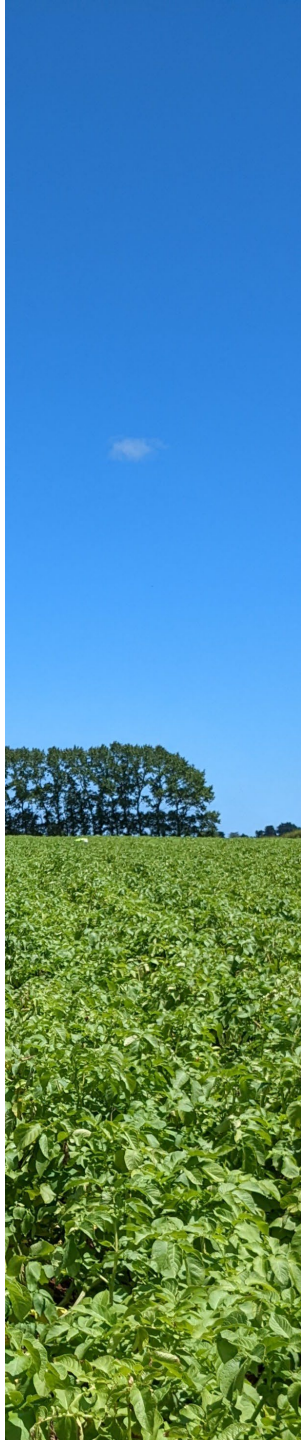
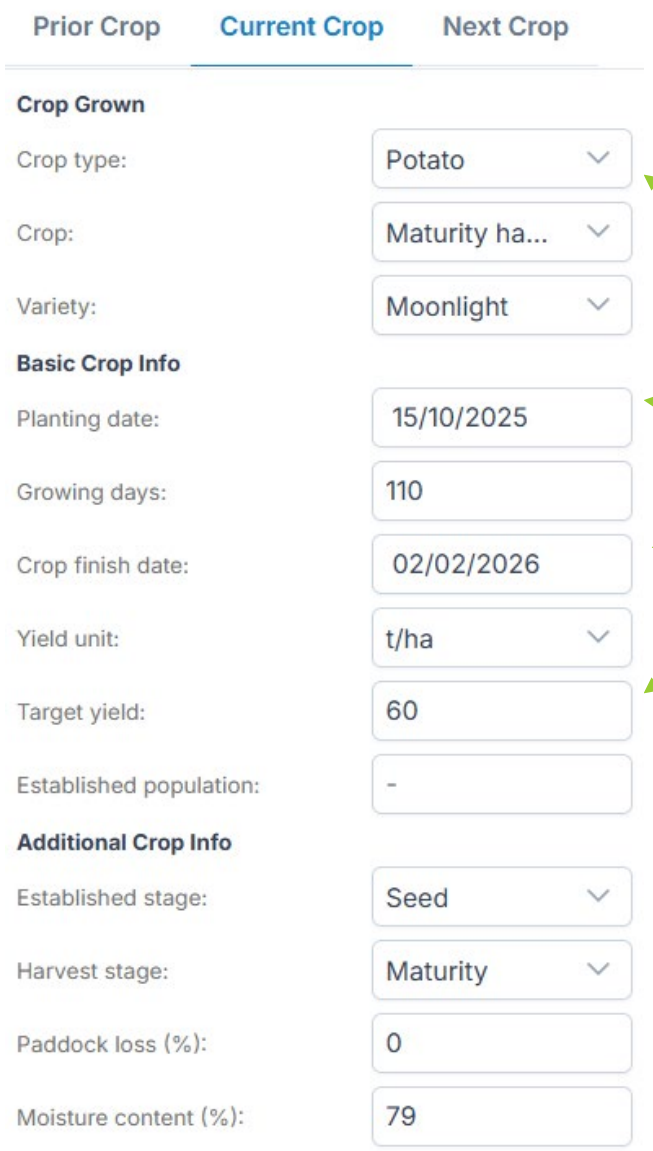
Topics being covered

1. The Sustainable Vegetable System Tool – Overview
2. Does the SVS Tool work? – potato case study
3. What next?

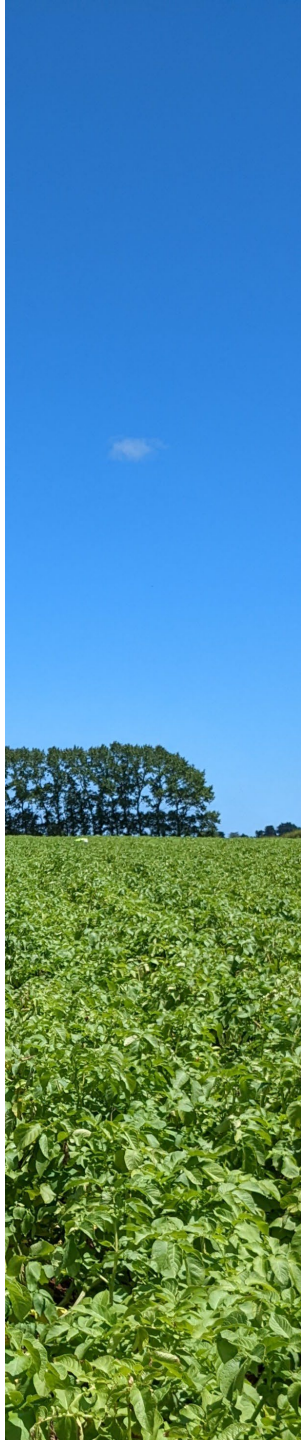


SVS Tool – A Decision Support Tool



3 simple inputs:

1. Crop type
2. Planting and harvest date
3. Target yield



N budget - Standard

N fertiliser total: 265 (kgN/ha)

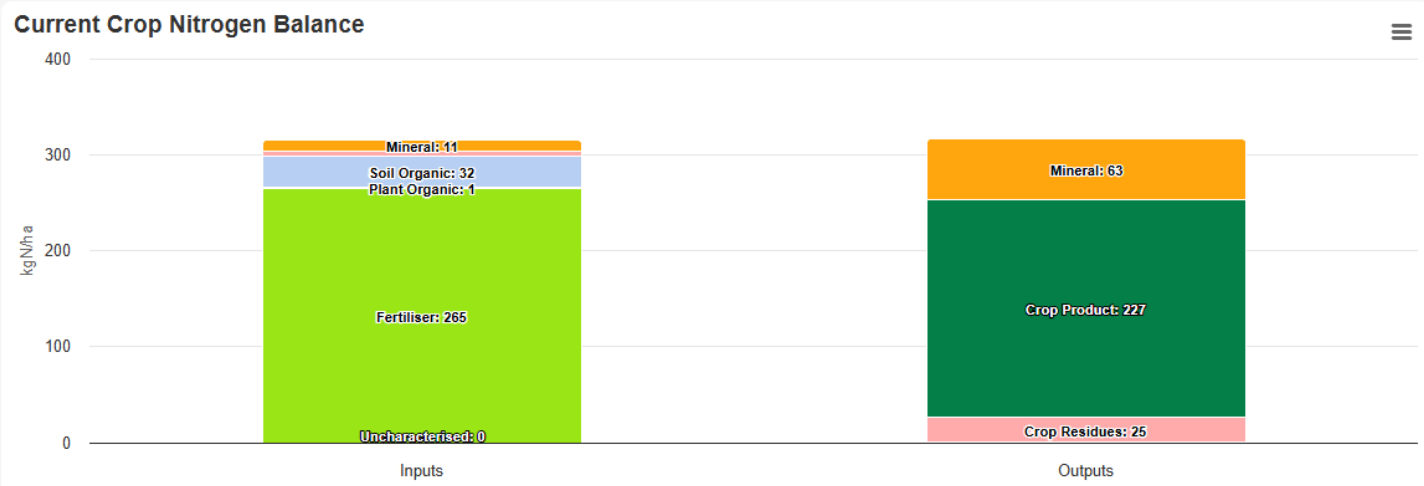
Nitrogen Schedule

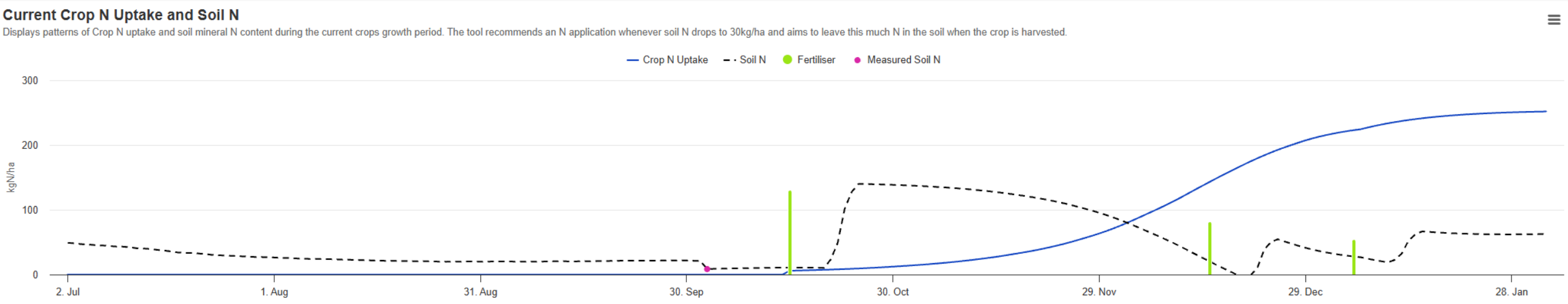
Final Fertiliser Date (Optional): 02/02/2026

+ Add

Date	Amount (kgN/ha)	
15/10/2025	130	
15/12/2025	81	
05/01/2026	54	

● Planned/Applied ● Guidance





N budget – SVS Tool

N fertiliser total: **222** (kgN/ha)

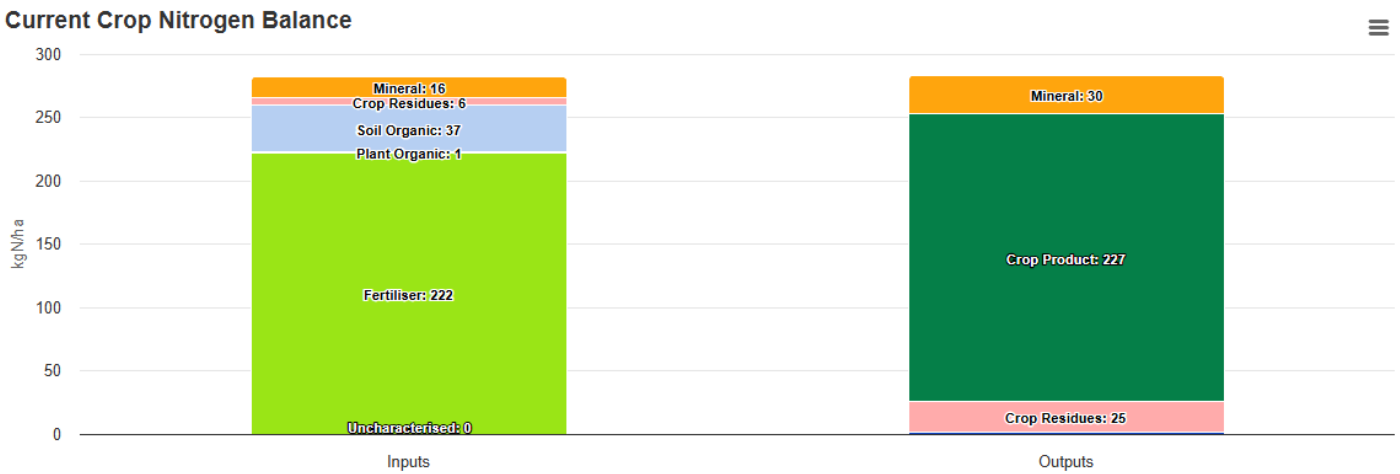
Nitrogen Schedule

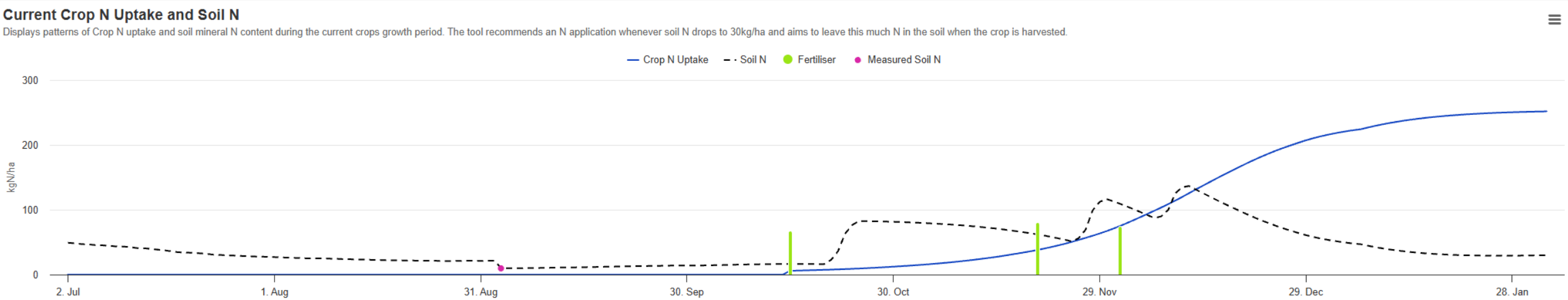
Final Fertiliser Date (Optional): 02/02/2026

+ Add

Date	Amount (kgN/ha)	
15/10/2025	**67**	
20/11/2025	**80**	
02/12/2025	**75**	

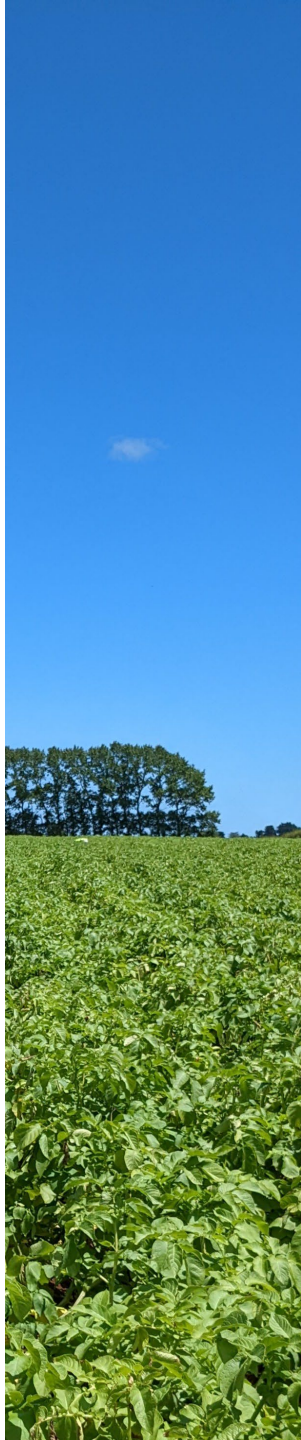
● Planned/Applied ● Guidance





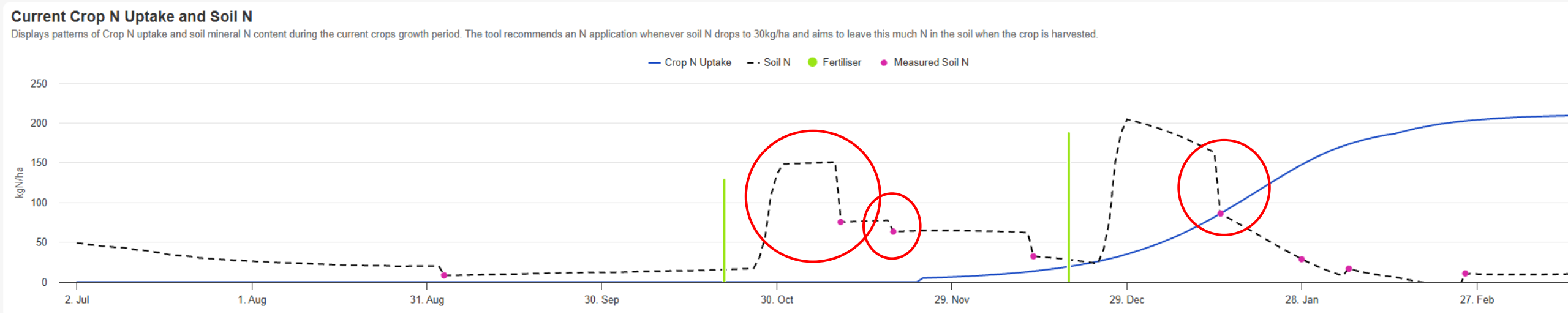
Round table discussions

- Standard fertiliser N of 265 kgN
- SVS Tool guidance of 222 kgN
- Discussion on:
  - Soil mineralisation – 30 to 40 kgN
  - Fertiliser timing – particularly at planting / canopy closure
  - N levels during the season
  - Mineral N at the end
    - 60 kgN vs 30 kgN

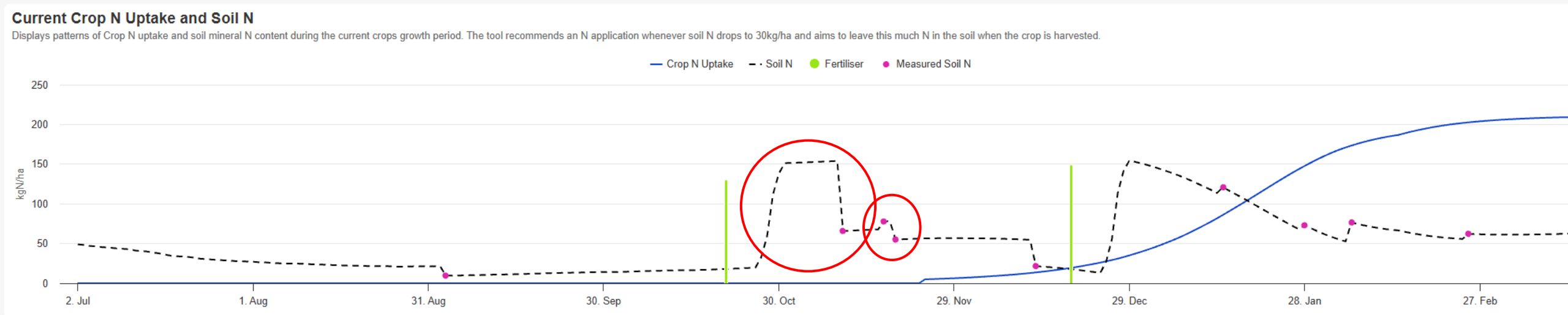


Fast forward – What actually happened

Standard practice



SVS Tool - Support



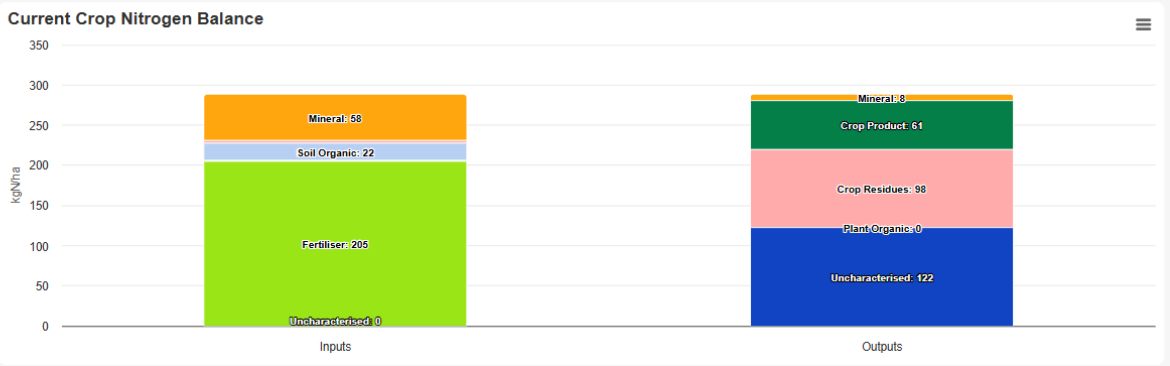
Lab vs Quick N tests

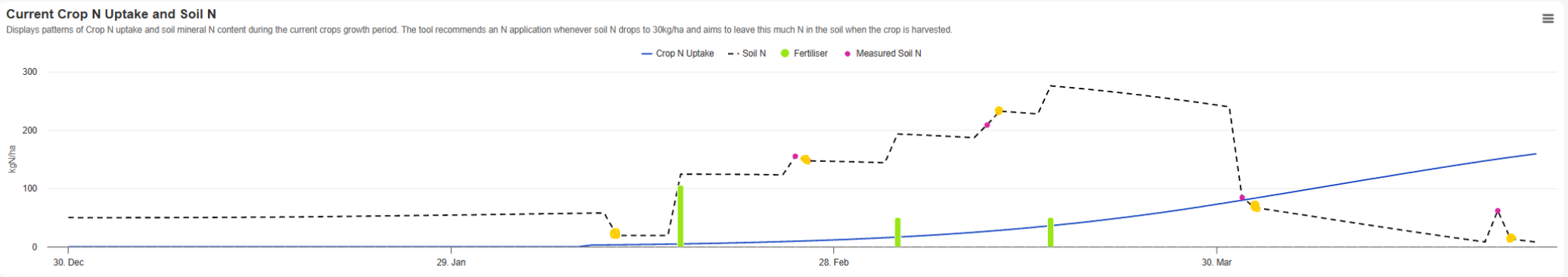
N fertiliser guidance: 0 (kgN/ha)

Nitrogen Schedule

Date	Amount (kgN/ha)
16/02/2026	105
05/03/2026	50
17/03/2026	50

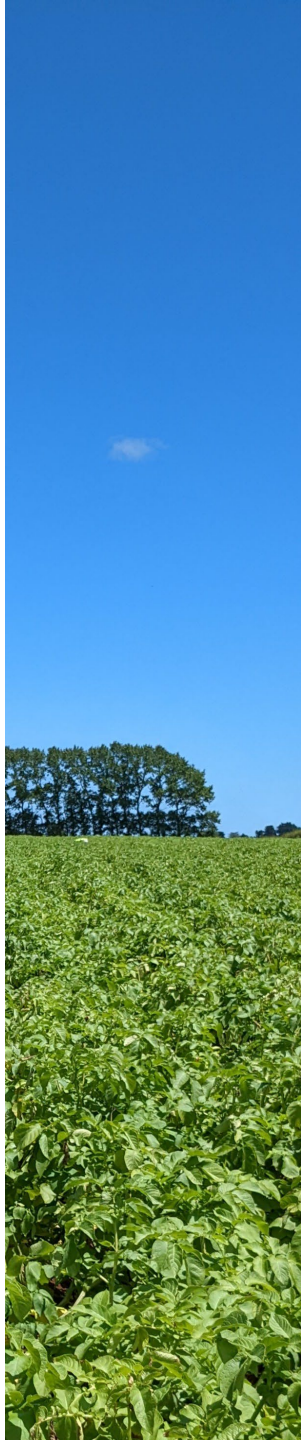
● Applied/Planned ● Guidance





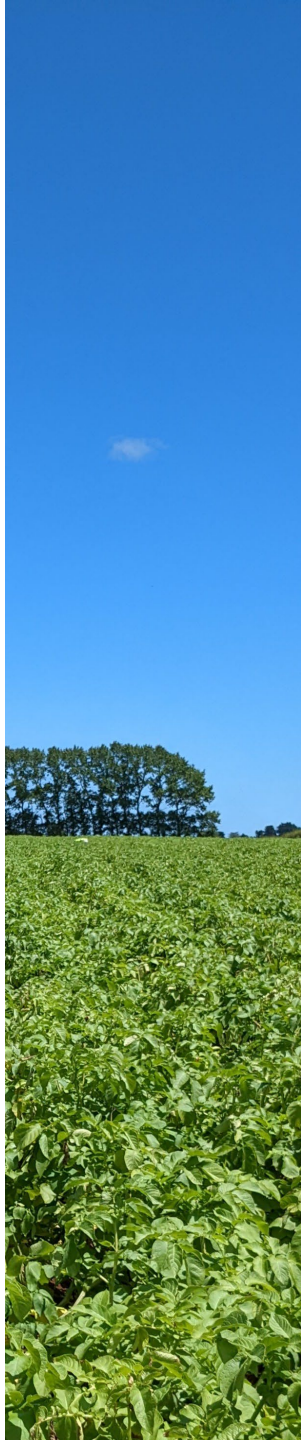
Gold dot – Lab. test
Purple dot – Quick N test

Within +/- 20 kg N
Except for the last one – 50 kgN different



Pukekohe Pilot

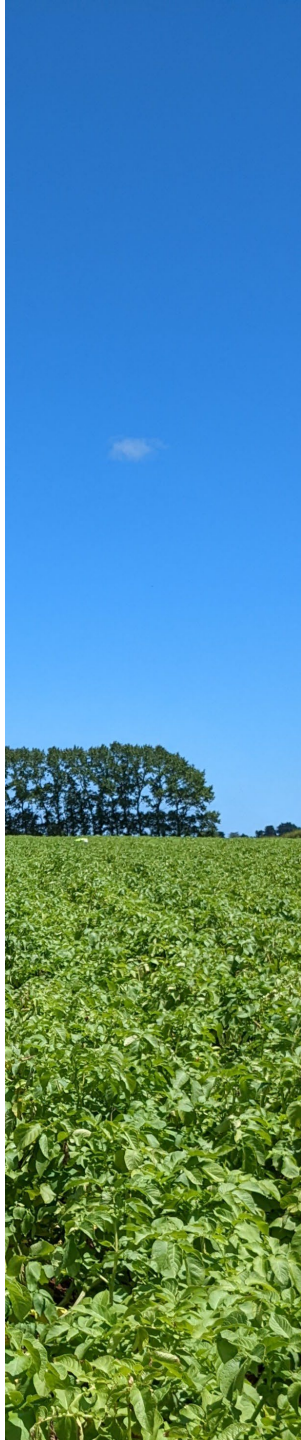
- Model changes:
  - Adding rules for scheduling N at planting
  - Scheduling rules between planting and harvest
  - Canopy cover constraints to fertiliser application
  - Need to account for changing N conc. of the crop as it develops



Pukekohe Pilot

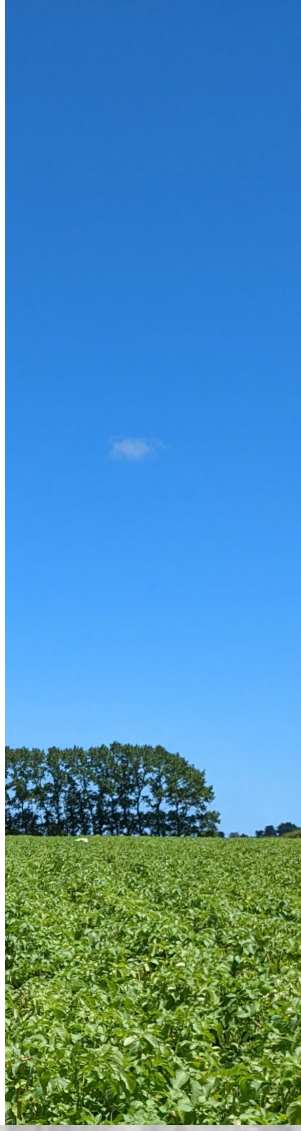
- Interface changes:
  - The method for entering and editing soil test
  - Ability to share an enterprise
  - Drag and drop crops in the management screen
  - Moving all fertiliser inputs to the right hand side and editable

It is a grower centric tool that will continue to be improved through feedback.



SVS Workshops

- Pukekohe – Daniel Sutton (027 4732 381)
- Horowhenua – Sarah Dobson (021 177 8173)
- Gisborne – Dereck Ferguson (027 807 4575)
- Hawke's Bay – Dereck Ferguson (027 807 4575)
- Canterbury – Paula Lleras (027 263 8427) &Roger Blyth (021 742 006)



Workshop Series

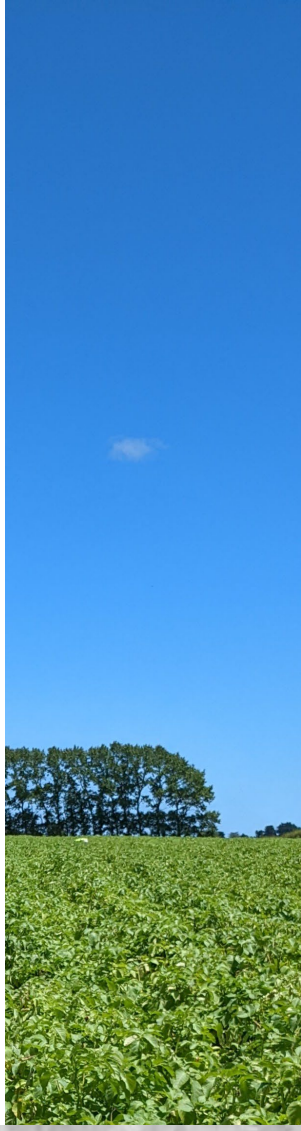
LEARN > APPLY > REVIEW > IMPROVE + PLAN

One – Getting started with SVS

Two – Applying SVS to your crops

Three – Review and learnings from the season

Four – Planning for next season



One take away (plus a few sub points)

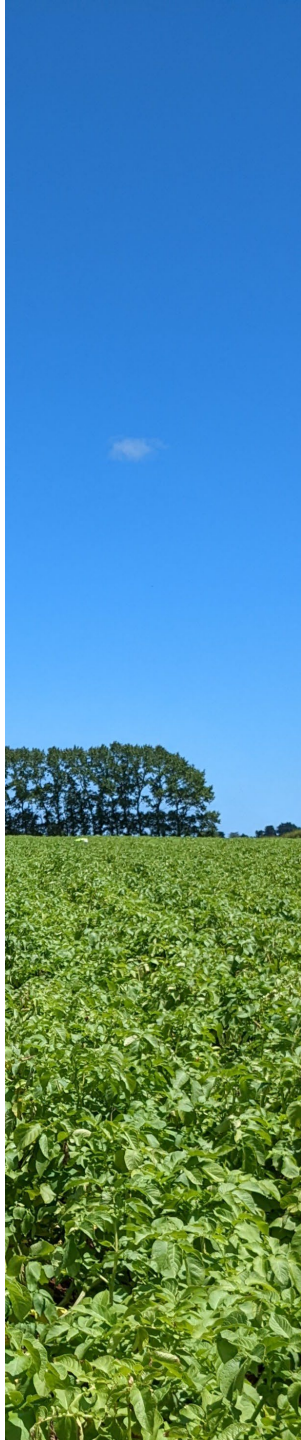
1. Dip your toe in the water

   www.svstool.co.nz

   i. Enter 2 crops
   ii. Track 1 crop – soil N tests. Both mineralisable N & mineral N.

Sit around the table and discuss

Get involved in the regional extension workshops

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