

AGRONOMY SUMMIT 2026

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Haulm Desiccation Strategies

- UK lost use of DIQUAT in 2019 – so what is left?
- Haulm pulverising/flailing followed by applications of PPO's (stem desiccants)
- Foliar only applications of PPO's after the onset of senescence
- Haulm pulling/Root cutting
- Gas burning
- Electrical haulm desiccation

Haulm Pulling & Electrocution



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Flailing - Ideally canopies should be senescing
A great opportunity to ridge roll!



Leave haulm debris between rows away from stem bases – leaving 4-8 inches of stem



Chemical Desiccation options (UK)

- PRODUCTS
- Gozai (Pyraflufen-ethyl)
- Spotlight Plus (Carfentrazone)
- Chemical only
- Flail followed by Chemical
- Not as visibly quick as Diquat



Chemical only

- 0.8 l/ha Gozai + 2 l/ha Toil (95% methylated rapeseed oil)
 - 7 days later
- 0.8 l/ha Gozai + 2 l/ha Toil
 - 7 days later
- 1 l/ha Spotlight Plus
 - 7 days later
- 0.6 l/ha Spotlight Plus (may not be required on determinate varieties)
- Could be 6 weeks from first application to skin set?

Flail + Chemical

- Flail – leaving 4-8 inches of stem above ridge/bed
 - 1-2 days later
- 0.8 l/ha Gozai + 2 l/ha Toil
 - 7 days later
- 1 l/ha Spotlight Plus
- Skin set usually achieved 3-4 weeks from Gozai application

- Always use a minimum of 300 l/ha water, forward & backward facing nozzles and apply in bright/sunny conditions in the morning
- REMEMBER – these products are stem desiccants – they are not that good on green leaf

PPO's work on stolon detachment

Untreated with PPO – 11 & 22
Days



Treated with PPO – 11 & 22
days



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Conclusions

- Without Diquat a change mindset will be required
- Is flailing a viable option?
 - Opportunity to ridge roll
 - Less re-growth
 - Quicker?
 - NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT IT SPREADS BLACKLEG (unless there is rainfall straight after flailing)
- Consider
 - Nitrogen and canopy management
 - Physiological age of tubers – senescence
 - Planting date and planned harvest date
 - Irrigation

Sprout Suppression

- Start in-field with MH
- Liquid and WSG products available
- Apply late evening, plant needs to be actively growing
- 350-400 l/ha water
- No rain or irrigation for 24-36 hours after application



Sprout Suppression

- UK lost use of CIPC October 2020!!
- So, what are the alternatives?
- DMN (1,4 SIGHT)
- Biox M (Mint Oil)
- Argos (Orange Oil)

- Ethylene

Seed Age and stem density



Roger Blyth & John Sarupger



How do you avoid this?





What are your target numbers for your market

Uniformity of seed stays all season

Grade tightness 35-50mm

The volume of a 50mm seed piece is 3 times that of a 35mm seed piece

Wide seed grade – differing planting depths

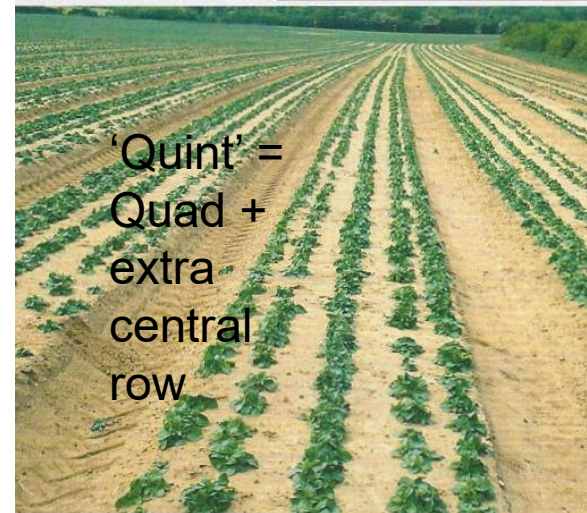
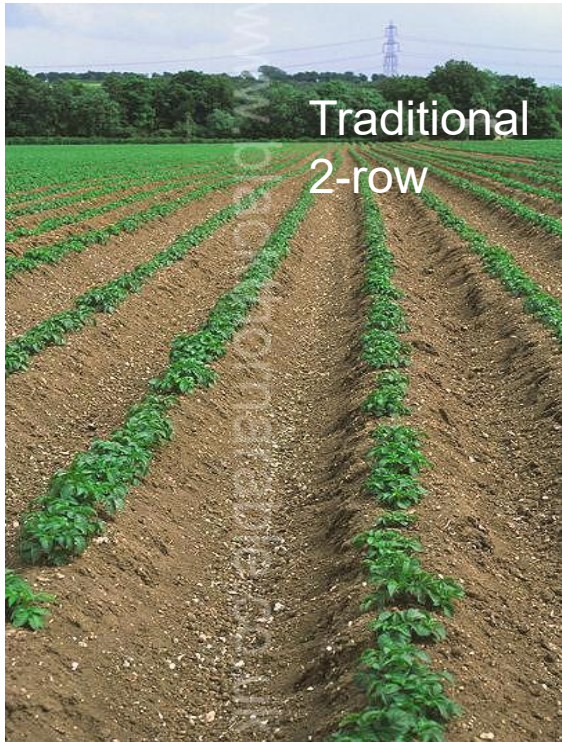
Count lines every season

Wash lines – scurf/ black dot/ rhizo

UK – Seed graded 30/40/50/60 or 28/35/45/55/60



Planter Configuration - Could this improve crop variability?



Theory: Bed vs 2-Row

Squarer planting i.e.
narrow row spacing

- More even use of resources
- Increased number of tubers
- More suitable for
 - Salads
 - Seed
 - Varieties with few tubers/stem or few stems

Difficult to measure
differences in practice

The Effect of Physiological Age



Physiological v Chronological Age

- The two are completely separate
- Physiological age is - the accumulation of “day degrees” measured from dormancy break – the sum of the daily mean temperature less 4c
 - High “day degrees” = less vigour – life cycle speeded up – depending on variety
- Chronological age is - about the time taken from tuber initiation of the seed crop to the break of dormancy of the daughter crop
 - Short time – less stems
 - Long time – more stems

A photograph of a large-scale agricultural irrigation system in operation. Multiple long, white arcs of water are being sprayed across a vast, green field of crops. In the background, there is a dense line of trees and rolling green hills under a heavy, overcast sky with dark, grey clouds. A small orange tractor is visible in the distance on the right side of the field.

THANKYOU
ANY QUESTIONS?

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