



Field layout

The shape, size and slope(s) of a field will influence layout. Careful planning of field layout can help minimise bruising levels.

ACTION	
Headlands	Consider not planting headlands. Headlands can account for up to 10% of the planted area but frequently the crop is more damaged due to inaccurate turnings, heavy traffic, clods and difficult lifting conditions.
Drills	Aim for straight uniform drills. Where drills curve tubers are more likely to be split by the shares or bruised by diablo rollers or during field operations, such as flailing or spraying.
Opening up the crop	Think about how you will open up the crop. Plan the layout so it will not be necessary to run on other drills.
Slopes	Try and plant crop up/down slopes, avoid planting across slopes. Consider the other implications of planting direction e.g. diffuse pollution.
Spray lines/irrigation runs	Crops are more prone to bruising in spray lines and irrigation runs, due to clods from wheelings. Question if you should plant spray lines/irrigation runs or segregate harvested crop. Consider reducing wheelings by maximising spray boom width and justifying all passes.

BPC National Bruising Survey

37% of respondents considered field layout as being an area where moderate affect or greater bruising occurred. However, agronomists and crop buyers placed greater emphasis on the importance of field layout with 61% considering it as an area where moderate or greater bruising occurred.

Potatoes are more likely to bruise.....	Potatoes are less likely to bruise.....
<ul style="list-style-type: none">where headlands are planted and lifting them requires running on other drills.where drills curve.where it is necessary to run over other drills to open up the crop for harvesting.where spray lines are planted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">where no headlands are planted, creating easier access for opening up the crop for harvesting.when drills are straight and uniform.where field layout ensures no drills are run over whilst opening up for harvesting.where spray lines are not planted.