



Planting

Season, site location, soil type and soil preparation will all influence planting conditions, rate of crop development and maturity. Whilst the season cannot be influenced, time operations to reduce the incidence of a cold and wet, cloddy seed bed.

The main factors at planting that can influence bruising and damage at harvest are the position within the ridge (side to side) and the consistency of planting depth. These factors affect the harvester's ability to lift the crop without bruising.

ACTION

- Check planter set-up to ensure seed is planted in the centre of the ridge and that it remains there
- Ensure the covering units do not bring up stones/clods from the wheelings
- Ensure seed is planted at an even depth with a good cover of soil and at least 7.5 cm (depends on variety) of stone free soil below the seed
- Monitor planting operations for even depth and uniform spacing between plants
- Watch out for creating clods and compaction with ridging bodies and hoods

BPC National Bruising Survey

93% of respondents believe the season has at least a moderate influence and greater affect on crop bruising susceptibility.

For further information on planting conditions and seed, ask for the BPC Research Review - Potato Agronomy, by calling BPC Publications on 01865 782222.

Potatoes are more likely to bruise.....

.....when planted off to one side in the ridge and at variable depths.

.....where plant stand is erratic leading to variable tuber size and maturity.

Potatoes are less likely to bruise.....

.....when planted into warm soils with good tilth.

.....where a uniform plant stand is produced.