



# Haulm destruction

In the majority of harvesting operations the less haulm that needs to be removed by the harvester the lower the tuber damage. Bruising can often occur when haulm is separated from the crop by the haulm rollers/separators, especially if the tubers are firmly attached to the stolons.

Haulm should be managed so that it is fully desiccated at the time of harvest and stolons can be easily detached from tubers.

Flailing as part of the desiccation process or prior to harvest will reduce the amount of haulm having to be separated from the crop.

## ACTION

- **Ensure effective haulm desiccation to achieve easy separation of tubers from stolons and good skin set**
- **Keep the volume of haulm that enters the harvester to a minimum**

## BPC National Bruising Survey

### What growers said:

- **51% thought the method of haulm destruction influenced bruising susceptibility**
- **48% thought haulm fingers were a cause of bruising**
- **75% thought haulm rollers/separators were a cause of bruising**

### Potatoes are more likely to bruise.....

.....when an excessive amount of haulm has to be removed by haulm rollers/separators.

.....when there is poor haulm kill and stolons are still attached to the tubers.

### Potatoes are less likely to bruise.....

.....when haulm is reduced by flailing.

.....when haulm is fully desiccated with weak stolon attachment to tubers.