

## Syngenta Potato Science looks to clean soil start

Agronomy Issues  
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This year's Potato Science Live events have given an insight in to new techniques and new technology for the coming season

**As potato growers gear up for the new planting season, Syngenta Technical Manager, Michael Tait, highlighted growers already need to be thinking about harvest skin finish with soil treatment options as seed goes into the ground.**

Speaking at Potato Science Live in Somerset, he reported effective suppression of Black Dot and *Rhizoctonia solani* with in-furrow Amistar used become an industry standard. But difficult spring conditions, often leading to extended growing seasons, combined with the challenges for store management, posed a future threat.

Michael presented Dutch research that demonstrated the recently introduced fluxapyroxad soil treatment had very limited activity on the Black Dot pathogen, compared to Amistar that is intrinsically highly active. For soil-borne *Rhizoctonia*, the research showed Amistar was also equally effective as fluxapyroxad.



“Furthermore, in field trials looking at possible effects on crop emergence, there was no difference in emergence and successful crop establishment between Amistar and fluxapyroxad,” he added.

### **PCN prevention**

Whilst the new SDHI fungicide, fluopyram, applied at planting may have a role to protect short season potato crops from PCN damage, Michael Tait emphasised it cannot be used in any combination with Nemathorin if the crop is grown for less than the statutory 119-day PHI.

“There has been some discussion around use of fluopyram with half-rate Nemathorin, but it makes no agronomic sense to reduce the rate of the most effective component,” he advised.



For yield, PCN control and management of multiplication, trials have consistently shown Nemathorin is superior, Michael (above) reported.

“There is some research work from Scotland that suggests there may be some benefit from full rate Nemathorin and full rate fluopyram together.”

**This season’s extended series of Syngenta Potato Science Live events gave growers and agronomists an exciting insight into some of the future technologies designed to enhance the efficiency and profitability of potato crop production.**

**With a range of speakers and specialists from across the industry, Potato Science Live provided a first look at a range of new agronomy opportunities, along with some ideas and practical measures that could be readily implemented this season.**

Read more reports from Potato Science Live. Click on the links below:

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Black Dot

Rhizoctonia

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