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AHDB's blight services
Tools and resources for late blight management

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POTATOES

AHDB's blight services

Tools and resources for late blight management

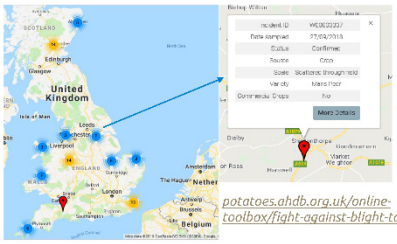
AHDB

The problem:

- Late blight, caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora infestans*, remains the single most important disease for the British potato trade
- Spreading quickly in the foliage, a typical blight pressure season can cost the industry approximately £55 million a year

FIGHT AGAINST BLIGHT

- For over 15 years Fight Against Blight (FAB) has been reporting late blight outbreaks
- FAB warns farmers and growers of outbreaks quickly, allowing improvements in management practices
- Blight scouts (growers & advisors who regularly walk potato fields) voluntarily take samples for analysis

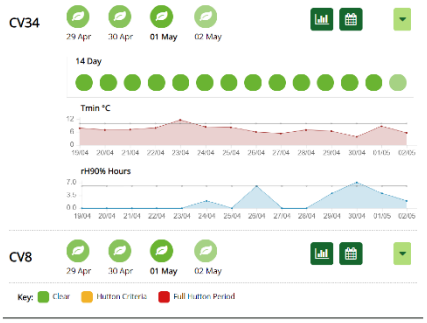


potatoes.ahdb.org.uk/online-toolbox/fight-against-blight-tool

- FAB has built a network of over 100 blight scouts who have collected samples from over 2,000 outbreaks since 2003
- Blight incidents are reported on a national level via the FAB webpage, where all users can see where blight has been found across the country
- Nearly 8,000 samples have been genotyped to track the changes in blight strains and help inform management practices

Visit: blight.ahdb.org.uk

Blightwatch

- Blightwatch uses Met Office forecast weather data to predict Hutton Criteria
- Email alerts are sent out for postcode locations to warn of potential Hutton Criteria in the next 24 hours
- Over 15,000 users are signed up to Blightwatch, enabling them to use the alerts to inform spray programmes and management practices

Visit: blightwatch.co.uk