

# Primary Production Technical Committee

Deputy Chair: Richard Baines

30 October 2024



# Agenda

**Welcome, minutes and matters arising from the last PPTC meeting on 26 March 2024**

**Update on Red Tractor activities, Sam Trevey (Technical Manager, Red Tractor)**

**Update on Water for Food Group activities, Dr Steve Moncaster (Water for Food, BAWAG)**

**Overview on wireworm research activities, Gareth Thomas, Jozsef Vuts, Anusha Mohan-Kumar (BBSRC Rothamsted)**

**Update on work of CIPC Residues Management Group, Adrian Cunnington (CRMG Chair)**

## **Plant protection products**

- UK and EU Pesticide authorisation extensions and MRL amendments.
- PPA Pesticide risk matrix.

## **Plant Health**

- UK/EU Seeds trade update.
- Potato Blight.

## **2025 meeting dates**

# Matters arising PPTC 26 March 2024

| Action  | Status   |
|---|--|
| PPA to circulate the updated BAWAG Strat Business Plan 2022/30 when available.  | Actioned (see PPTC 121/24)   |
| Board to be informed of the appointment of Richard Baines as the new Deputy Chair of the PPTC.  | Actioned.  |
| PPTC members to volunteer for any of the listed roles that they are able to support.  | Ongoing request. No further developments to report (see later slide).  |
| Secretariat to work with nominated members and relevant forums/groups to ensure appropriate representation for PPA.   |  |
| PPA to raise the issue of continued access to AHDB Potatoes materials with GB Potatoes.   | Actioned. This has been raised with GB Potatoes.   |
| PPA to maintain good communications with CUPGRA, with the possibility of a future PPTC meeting at the NIAB facilities in Cambridge.                                       | Ongoing.   |
| PPA to maintain a watching brief on developments relating to RT.  | Ongoing. To be covered later in agenda.  |
| Secretariat to monitor progress of proposal: new NGT project, on the development of a cisgenic potato resistant to late blight, potato leaf roll virus and potato virus Y | BBSRC declined to fund the project, but it will go ahead anyway using TSL core funds. TSL expects to have deployable precision bred blight and virus-resistant Charlotte and Maris Piper within 4-5 years. TSL are also looking at processing varieties. |
| J Lee to provide PPA with his latest estimate for planted acreage.  | Actioned.  |

# Matters arising PPTC 26 March 2024

| Action  | Status   |
|---|--|
| Secretariat to update PPTC as Mintec collaboration proposals are developed.           | Ongoing. PPA has met with Mintec and is awaiting a proposal. Proposal has been delayed several times, most recently was expected by 5 August (Delays at Mintec as they have rebranded to Expana). Contact has left, and now uncertain whether project will continue. |
| Restrain presentation to be shared with PPTC.   | Actioned.  |
| DormFresh presentation to be shared with PPTC.  | Actioned.  |
| CRMG presentation to be shared with PPTC.   | Actioned.  |
| PPTC members to support the CRMG through submission of relevant data where available. | Ongoing request. To be covered later in agenda.  |
| GB Potatoes presentation to be shared with PPTC.                                      | Actioned.  |
| 'Doodle poll' for July and November 2024 PPTC meetings to be issued.                  | Actioned.  |
| Members to advise on possible venues for future physical PPTC meetings.               | Ongoing request for suggestions.   |

# Chairmanship and PPTC Representation

| Role                              | Currently proposed representation  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| PPTC Chair                        | TBC ( <b>Volunteers welcomed</b> )   |
| PPTC Deputy Chair                 | Richard Baines   |
| Treaters Group                    | Matt Smallwood, (Andrew Curtis for correspondence)                           |
| NAAC Post Harvest Treatment Group | Gary Collins, Kevin Hutchinson, Andrew Curtis                                |
| Potato Stakeholders (fortnightly) | Andrew Curtis, Richard Baines  |
| Nematicide Stewardship Programme  | Andrew Curtis (Matt Smallwood as technical support)                          |
| GB PCN Forum Variety choice WG    | Phil Rivas   |
| CIPC Residues Management group    | Andrew Curtis, Gary Collins  |
| UKIA (UK Irrigation Association)  | Andrew Curtis (Matt Smallwood as technical support)                          |
| Water For Food group              | Andrew Curtis, Chelsea Davies  |
| Red Tractor TAC                   | Andrew Curtis, Ben Firth ( <b>Nominated. Awaiting confirmation from RT</b> ) |
| Virus Forum                       | Andrew Curtis (Matt Smallwood as technical support)                          |
| Ad Hoc Mancozeb Task Force        | Andrew Curtis (Matt Smallwood as technical support)                          |
| EUPPA Board                       | Andrew Curtis (PPA)  |
| EUPPA Agricultural sustainability | Andrew Curtis (PPA)  |
| EUPPA Processing sustainability   | Andrew Curtis (PPA)  |

# Refresh of PPA brand identity

## Updated PPA Logo(s)



## PPA website refresh

<https://www.ppauk.org/>

## Update of PPA Brochures and annual report – support required for one additional brochure – focus on agri and fries

**Celebrating the savoury snacks industry in the UK**

**Savoury snacks and the UK economy**  
The savoury snacks sector makes a significant contribution to the country's manufacturing base, which is vital to the UK economy.

**Market Value**  
The total value of the savoury snack industry in the UK is estimated at £4,053 million. In 2022, the UK chips and savoury snacks market was estimated at £3,483 million. For the same period nuts were valued at £265m, popcorn at £166m and sweet snacks at £169m.

Savoury snack manufacturers make up a vital part of the food and drink manufacturing sector, the largest and most innovative manufacturing sector within the UK. We represent around 2.7% of the agri-food sector's total value.

|       |                |        |                |      |              |         |              |               |              |
|-------|----------------|--------|----------------|------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Chips | £1,688 million | Snacks | £2,365 million | Nuts | £230 million | Popcorn | £166 million | Sweet snacks* | £169 million |
|-------|----------------|--------|----------------|------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------------|--------------|

**Employment**  
There are over 170 different businesses operating within the UK snacks sector. Savoury snack manufacturers directly employ over 10,000 people.

Over 75% of all snack firms are located outside London and the South East and in particular the sector is a major employer in both the East Midlands and the East of England.

We continue to grow our focus in helping to reinforce the UK economy by providing our members with the training, jobs, skills and support that are needed to ensure the UK's leading snacks from home grown potatoes.

**Why join us?**  
PPA is the trade association for UK manufacturers of processed potato products.

**THE BENEFITS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP ALLOW US TO BE RECOGNISED AS THE VOICE OF THE PROCESSED POTATO INDUSTRY WITHIN THE UK**

**Benefits of PPA membership**  
Preserving and enhancing the reputation of potatoes and savoury snack products

**Regulatory and scientific affairs**

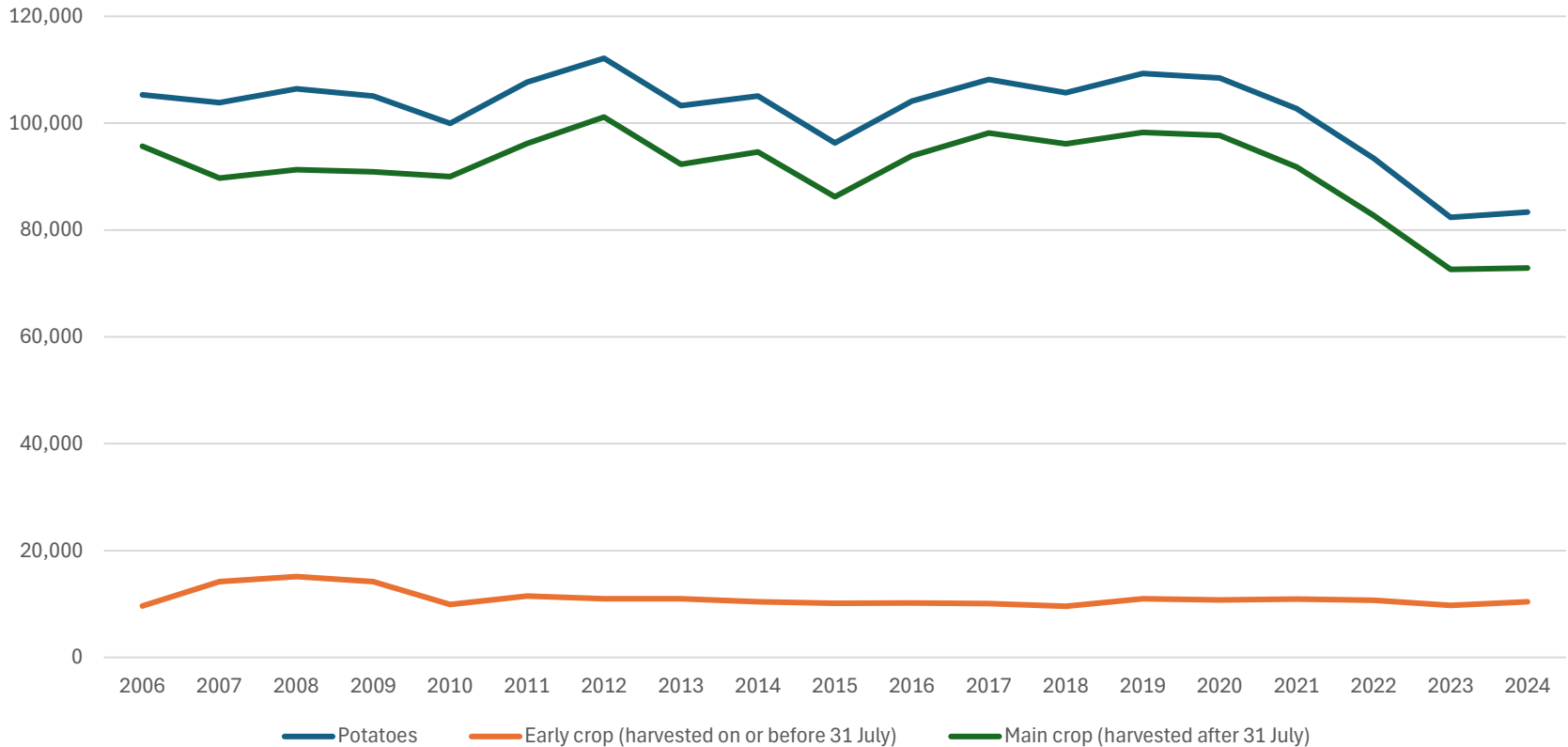
**Annual Report 2023-24**

**PPA is the trade association for UK manufacturers of processed potato products.**

New email addresses: [andrew.curtis@ppauk.org](mailto:andrew.curtis@ppauk.org) and [vanessa.richardson@ppauk.org](mailto:vanessa.richardson@ppauk.org)

# Estimated England planted potato area

Potato crop areas (ha) on 1 June 2024



Potatoes increased by 1.2%, rising to 83 thousand hectares in 2024.

DEFRA: Accredited official statistics. Agricultural land use in England, 1 June 2024. Updated 26 September 2024.



# Red Tractor

Sam Trevey

Fresh Produce Technical Manager

30 October 2024



# Water

Dr Steve Moncaster

BAWAG, WFF

30 October 2024

# Water For Food (WFF)




## Since the last meeting

- WFF has been incorporated as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.
- WFF has been set up to help abstractors in the food and farming sector deal with changes to abstraction licences that are expected over the next few years.
- Preliminary data from EA suggests that hundreds of agricultural abstractors will be affected by these processes.
- As part of the National Framework, WFF will be working with each of the regional planning groups, WAGs and the NFU to make sure that the interests of food and farming abstractors are protected.

**Water Abstractor Groups**

Recruitment & set-up (JP)



| Area                 | Regional Group | Contacted | Met with abstractors? | Level of interest | Lead appointed |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| CAMEO                | WRE            | Y         | ?                     |                   |                |
| Essex                | WRE            | Y         | N                     | Low               |                |
| Kent                 | WRSE           | Y         | Y                     | Medium            |                |
| Lincolnshire Central | WRE            | Y         | Y                     | High              | Tim Harper ?   |
| Nottinghamshire      | WRW            | Y         | Y                     | High              |                |
| Mease                | WRW            | Y         | y                     | Medium            |                |
| Shropshire           | WRW            | Y         | y                     | High              | Scott Kirby    |
| Sussex               | WRSE           | Y         | July tbc              |                   |                |
| Lincolnshire Fens    | WCWR           | Y         | June tbc              |                   |                |
| ?                    | WRN            | N         |                       |                   |                |

WFF proposes that there a couple of opportunities for PPA to support:

- Supporting delivery of the governance Toolkit project.
- Helping WFF to set up the priority WAGs.
- Helping WFF to promote its successes.

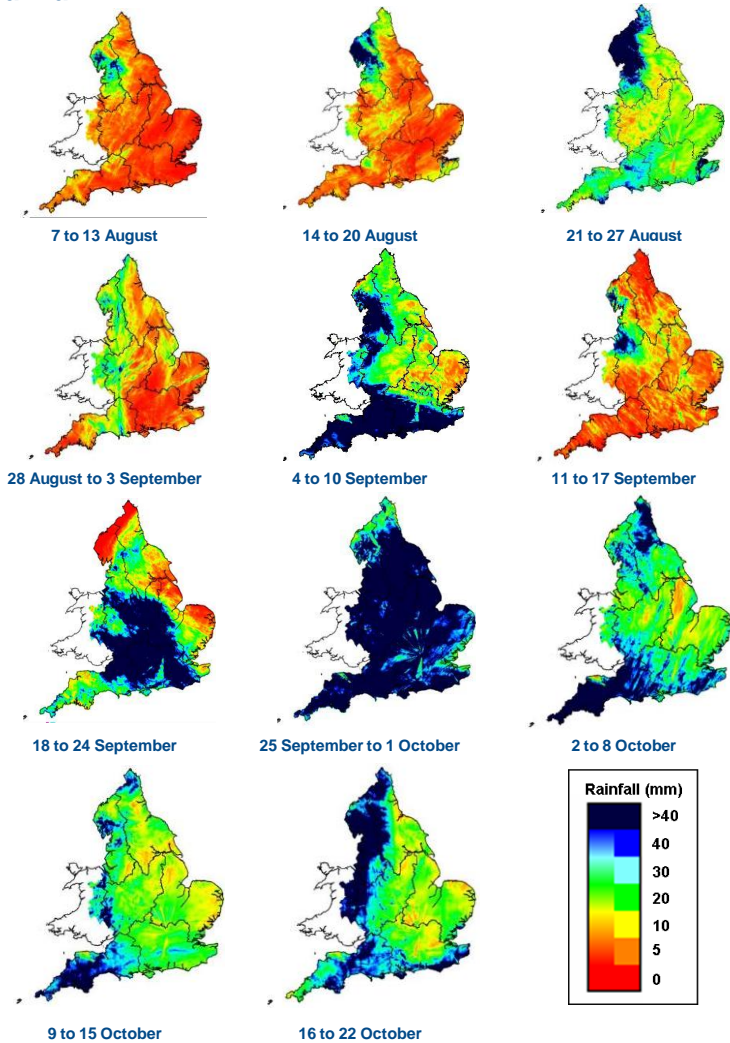
**PPTC members have been asked if they are able to support, particularly with the setting up of the regional WAGs.**

# EA Water situation

| Geographic regions | Latest Week: 16 to 22 Oct 2024 | Latest month to date: Oct 2024 |       | Last month: Sep 2024 |       | Last 3 months: Jul to Sep 2024 |       | Last 6 months: Apr to Sep 2024 |       | Last 12 months: Oct 2023 to Sep 2024 |       |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|
|                    | Total (mm)                     | Total (mm)                     | % LTA | Total (mm)           | % LTA | Total (mm)                     | % LTA | Total (mm)                     | % LTA | Total (mm)                           | % LTA |
| north-west         | 63                             | 108                            | 86    | 130                  | 113   | 360                            | 117   | 690                            | 129   | 1,649                                | 138   |
| north-east         | 31                             | 76                             | 103   | 105                  | 148   | 226                            | 107   | 457                            | 117   | 1,141                                | 136   |
| central            | 33                             | 83                             | 137   | 154                  | 253   | 249                            | 140   | 432                            | 124   | 1,067                                | 148   |
| east               | 13                             | 54                             | 107   | 101                  | 203   | 193                            | 125   | 348                            | 115   | 840                                  | 140   |
| south-east         | 26                             | 81                             | 114   | 156                  | 245   | 268                            | 157   | 433                            | 131   | 1,119                                | 153   |
| south-west         | 37                             | 123                            | 124   | 159                  | 191   | 304                            | 137   | 515                            | 125   | 1,475                                | 144   |
| England            | 31                             | 85                             | 111   | 133                  | 189   | 258                            | 130   | 462                            | 123   | 1,173                                | 143   |

Source: EA Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 16 October to Tuesday 22 July 2024

## Rainfall



## River flow categories

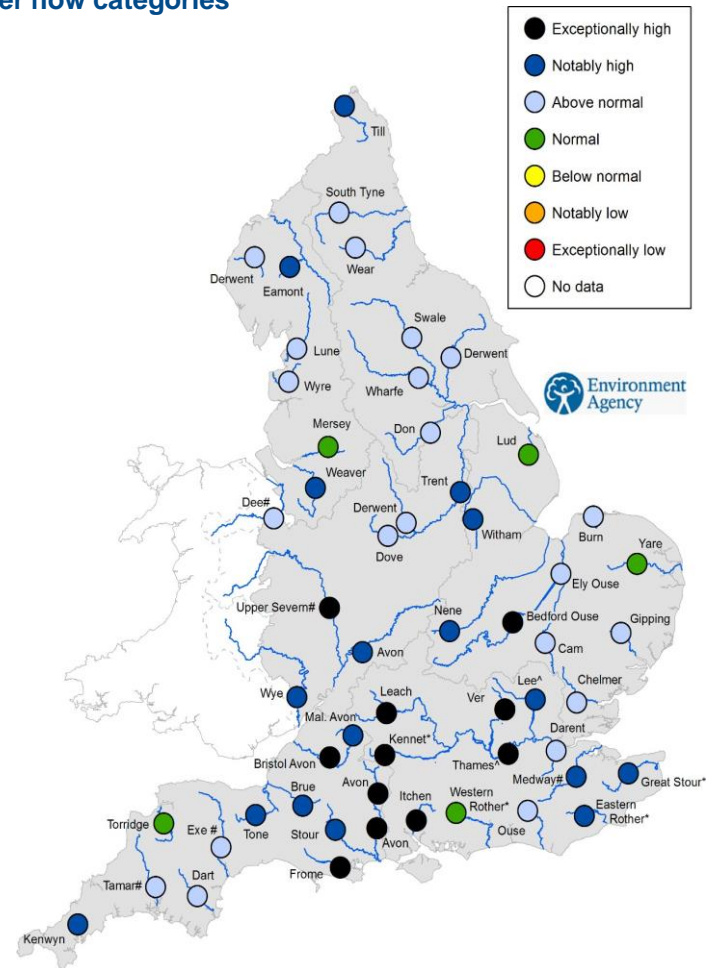
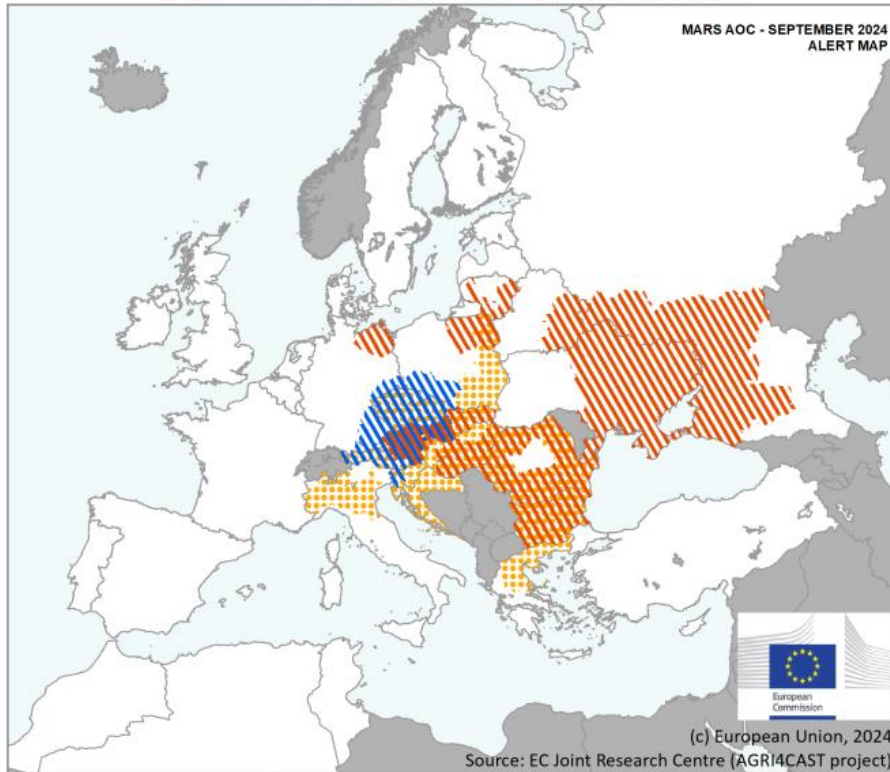


Figure 2 Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year

# European Outlook

## AREAS OF CONCERN - ALERT MAP

Reference period: 1 August until 14 September 2024



 Water deficit
  Water excess
  Heat stress

| Crop          | Yield t/ha |                 |                     |          |               |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|---------------|
|               | Avg 5yrs   | August Bulletin | MARS 2024 forecasts | %24/5yrs | % Diff August |
| Spring barley | 4.08       | 4.43            | <b>4.40</b>         | +8       | -1            |
| Grain maize   | 7.35       | 7.03            | <b>6.84</b>         | -7       | -3            |
| Potatoes      | 35.4       | 35.1            | <b>35.8</b>         | +1       | +2            |
| Sugar beet    | 73.1       | 73.4            | <b>74.7</b>         | +2       | +2            |
| Sunflower     | 2.15       | 2.04            | <b>1.98</b>         | -8       | -3            |
| Soybeans      | 2.73       | 2.75            | <b>2.81</b>         | +3       | +2            |
| Field beans   | 2.72       | 2.81            | <b>2.81</b>         | +3       | +0            |
| Field peas    | 2.34       | 2.24            | <b>2.21</b>         | -5       | -1            |
| Green maize   | 41.7       | 42.7            | <b>43.2</b>         | +4       | +1            |
| Rice          | 6.38       | —               | <b>6.78</b>         | +6       | —             |

Issued: 23 September 2024

Source: JRC MARS Bulletin Crop monitoring in Europe September 2024

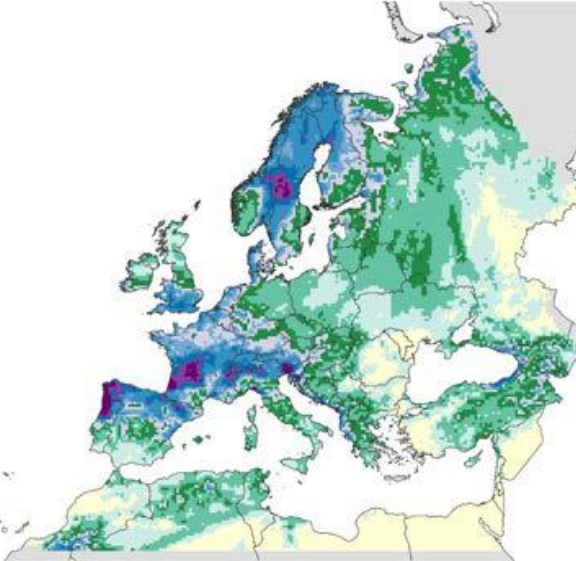
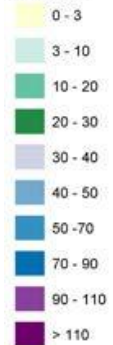
# European Rainfall

## RAINFALL

Cumulative values

from: 19 September 2024  
to: 28 September 2024

Units: mm



19/09/2024  
Resolution: 25 x 25 km



© European Union, 2024  
Source: EC Joint Research Centre (AGRIMCAST project)

## NUMBER OF DAYS WITH SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL

from: 19 September 2024  
to: 28 September 2024  
Rain (mm) > 5

Units: days



19/09/2024  
Resolution: 25 x 25 km



© European Union, 2024  
Source: EC Joint Research Centre (AGRIMCAST project)

*Source: JRC MARS Bulletin Crop monitoring in Europe September 2024*

# Wireworm research

Gareth Thomas, Jozsef Vuts, Anusha Mohan-Kumar  
(BBSRC Rothamsted)

30 October 2024



ROTHAMSTED  
RESEARCH

# CIPC Residues Management Group

Adrian Cunnington  
Chair of CRMG, PSI  
30 October 2024



# CIPC Residues Management Group

**Chlorpropham (CIPC, sprout suppressant previously authorised for use on potatoes).**

Last CRMG meeting held 19 August 2024. Next meeting on 5 November 2024

Report for 2023/2024 finalised and submitted to CRD on 20 August 2024 (PPA does not yet have permission to share the report: Chairman was awaiting receipt of CRD response).

Headlines:

- Target samples for CRD was 125 total (100 box stores and 25 bulk).
- Actual submission was 102 total (69 box, 33 bulk).
- Majority of result reported were non-detects.
- Mean value aligns with EU figures – suggests that further reduction is possible (0.25 - 0.20 mg/kg).

CRD has now prepared a confidential response for CRMG, to be discussed on 5 November 2024.

CRMG will also be discussing updating guidance on cleaning, and media communication.

Discussion on funding for the CRMG going forward: GB potatoes has allocated funding within its future budget (from sale of SBCSR). Possibility that PPA will step away from the secretariat role for the group in favour of GB Potatoes.

At an EU Level:

- The current EU tMRL was discussed at the Standing Committee on Pesticide Residues (23-24 September 2024). Proposal is to move tMRL to 0.20mg/kg (vote expected 25-26 November 2024).
- PVC would also be expected to report data every two years instead of annually.
- A draft of the PVC's report for 2023/2024 has yet to be issued by ARVALIS.

# Metribuzin (EU and NI)

## Metribuzin (herbicide).

Bayer has confirmed that the Commission intends to proceed with non-renewal of metribuzin.

- EFSA previously identified three critical areas of concern including that metribuzin meets the EU's hazard-based criteria for endocrine disruption.
- Bayer and the other registrant companies disagree with EFSA's assessment regarding endocrine disruption.
- A draft non-renewal proposal was discussed at the SCoPAFF meeting on 10-11 July.

Commission issued a WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) notification on 24 July, with a deadline for comments of 22 September 2024.

- Member States shall withdraw authorisations for plant protection products containing metribuzin as an active substance by... [6 months from date of entry into force of this Regulation].
- Any grace period granted by Member States in accordance with Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 shall expire by ... [12 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation].

MS voted for non-renewal at the SCoPAFF meeting on 2-3 October 2024 (minutes not yet available).

Final publication of the non-renewal regulation is expected within 2 months of the SCOPAFF meeting, and entry into force is 20 days after that.

Anticipated that the Regulation will become effective around the end of the year. The 12-month total grace period would then allow farmers to still use the product during 2025, but this would be dependent on decisions within individual MS.

GB authorisation is theoretically in place until 31 July 2028 (assuming CRD does not trigger an Article 21 review).

# Mancozeb (GB)

## Mancozeb (fungicide used to control late blight in potatoes).

In January CRD announced it reviewed the approval of mancozeb under Article 21 of retained Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 (NB: initial dates for expiry etc. have been extended).

- Expiry date to be extended to 31 May 2024.
- Sale and supply of any plant protection product containing mancozeb until the 30 November 2024.
- Storage, disposal and use of any plant protection product containing mancozeb until 30 November 2025.

UPL were concerned due process not followed, and no opportunity given for it to submit under normal renewal procedures. UPL were exploring 'regulatory and legal' options (appears that this activity has stopped: UPL has not provided an update).

28 February 2024, PPA co-signed an industry letter to Steve Barclay on the importance of mancozeb in light of recent European blight developments.

15 April 2024, meeting with Mark Spencer. Attendees were Mark Taylor, Eric Anderson and NFU.

PPA drafted a statement in support of continued use of mancozeb over the next two seasons for use by members (8 May).

Follow-up letter (again co-signed by PPA) submitted on 17 May, with response from Rachel Irving, Defra Deputy Director, Chemicals, Pesticides and Hazardous Waste on 1 July.

Possibility to implement an Article 4.7 authorisation after November 2025: where an active substance is necessary to control a serious danger to plant health which cannot be contained by other available means including non-chemical methods. UPL to investigate.

# Mancozeb (EU)

## Mancozeb (fungicide used to control late blight in potatoes).

UPL Europe Ltd and Indofil Industries (Netherlands) BV have successfully appealed against the Commissions' removal of mancozeb from the approved list.

- Regulation EU 2020/2087 removed mancozeb's authorization largely based on concerns about its classification as toxic to reproduction.
- The Commission's decision was primarily supported by a 2018 opinion from the RAC, which classified mancozeb as a toxic substance for reproduction in category 1B.
- On 4 October 2024, the European Court of Justice ruled that the European Commission wrongly relied on outdated scientific evidence when deciding not to renew the approval of mancozeb.  
LINK: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62023CJ0262&qid=1730207049543>
- One of the key issues identified was the Commission's failure to take into account the more recent scientific evaluations provided by Greece, the new RMS following the UK's departure from the EU.

The case has been referred back to the General Court, which must now re-examine the evidence based on updated scientific data and decide whether the Commission's decision to refuse renewal still stands

# Other PPP issues of potential relevance

## Renewals and amendments (GB and EU) – to note

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2024/2640 of 9 October 2024 amending and correcting Annex II to Regulation \(EC\) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, difluoroacetic acid \(DFA\), fluopyram and flupyradifurone in or on certain products](#)

- The existing MRL in potatoes has been amended from 15 mg/kg to 20 mg/kg from April 2025, which will allow for WHP to be reduced from 30 to 3 days. France granted this in Aug 2024.
- Renewal in UK & EU (AT) ongoing (In GB date extended: see below).
- GB 20mg/ml MRL & 3d WHP ongoing.
- Data gaps (on residues in processed commodities for potatoes and on analytical methods for products of animal origin) have been removed from the EFSA assessment.
- ML modifications also made to the following commodities: swine fat, swine others, 'commodities from bovine', sheep muscle, sheep fat, sheep liver, sheep edible offal (other than liver and kidney), sheep others, goat muscle, goat fat, goat liver, goat edible offal (other than liver and kidney), goat others, 'commodities from equine', 'commodities from poultry', 'milk' and 'bird eggs'.

On 28 October 2025 CRD announced extension of approvals for several of actives. Of interest to the sector:

- 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene (GR) [GB 30/06/2031]
- Mandipropamid (F) [GB 31/07/2031]
- Spearmint oil (GR) [GB 31/08/2031]
- Flonicamid (I) [GB 31/08/2031]
- Cycloxydim (H) [GB 31/05/2031]
- Aclonifen (H) [GB 31/07/2027]
- Bentazone (H) [GB 31/05/2031]
- Oxathiapiprolin (F) [GB 03/03/2032]

**GB Potato Plant Protection Products and Biocides Issues Risk Matrix (October 2024)**

Level of risk, imminent, medium-term to longer-term



Decreasing impact on business

| Risk Analysis  | PPP authorisation expires or related issues to be reviewed in the next 12 months (Before end October 2025)<br>[Actions in hand]<br>Dynamic situation                           | PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (November 2025 – October 2027)<br>Future Issue<br>[Plans in preparation]   | >36 months (after end October 2027) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Big Company Impact<br>Cost<br>Reputation<br>Media                    | Mancozeb* (F) [GB expiry of authorisation 31/05/24. Sale and supply 30/11/24. Storage, disposal and use 30/11/25].<br>Criteria for defining EDs<br>Candidates for substitution | Lambda-cyhalothrin* (I) [GB expiry 31/03/26]   | Metribuzin* (H) [GB 31/07/28]<br>Cymoxanil (F) [GB 31/08/29]<br>Fosthiazate (N) [GB expiry 31/10/29]<br>1,4-DMN (GR) [GB 30/06/31]<br>Mandipropamid* (F) [GB 31/07/31]<br>Maleic Hydrazide (GR) [GB 31/10/32]<br>Carfentrazone-ethyl (H) [GB 31/07/33]<br>Spearmint oil (GR) [GB 31/08/31] |
| Moderate Impact<br>Cost<br>Material availability<br>Working practice |  | Glyphosate (H) [GB 15/12/25]   | Flutolanil (ST) [GB 28/02/29]<br>Azoxyrobin (F) [GB 31/12/29]<br>Imazalil (ST) [GB 31/12/29]<br>Ferric phosphate (M) [GB 31/12/30]<br>Flonicamid (I) [GB 31/08/31]<br>Thiabendazole* (ST) [GB 31/03/32]  |
| Small Impact<br>Cost<br>Materials<br>Change                          |  | Esfenvalerate (I) [GB 31/12/25]<br>Fluopicolide (F) [GB 31/05/26]<br>Benthiavalicarb (F) [GB 31/07/27]<br>Dimethomorph (F) [GB 31/07/27]<br>Flufenacet (H) [GB 31/10/27] | Difenoconazole* (F) [GB 31/12/28]<br>Fluazinam* (F) [GB 29/02/29]<br>Rimsulfuron (H) [GB 30/04/29]<br>Propamocarb (F) [GB 31/07/29]<br>Prosulfocarb (H) [GB 31/10/29]  |

NB: All GB authorisations that were still in place as of 01/01/2021 were automatically extended for a 3-year period. A further extension was granted for some actives as of 12/04/2023  
 Current issue      Changed priority      Identified as a potential high profile media issue      \*Potential Endocrine disruptor  
 H – Herbicide, F – Fungicide, GR- Growth Regulator, I – Insecticide, ST – Seed Treatment, N – Nematicide, D – Desiccant, M – Molluscicides

## EU Potato Plant Protection Products and Biocides Issues Risk Matrix (October 2024)

Level of risk, imminent, medium-term to longer-term

|                               | <b>Risk Analysis</b><br>PPP authorisation expires or related issues to be reviewed in the next 12 months (Before end October 2025)<br>[Actions in hand]<br>Dynamic situation | PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (November 2025 – October 2027)<br>Future Issue<br>[Plans in preparation]  | >36 months (after end October 2027) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation   |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Decreasing impact on business | <b>Big Company Impact</b><br>Cost<br>Reputation<br>Media   | Criteria for defining EDs<br>Candidates for substitution<br>Metribuzin* (H) [EU expiry 15/02/25]<br>1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene (PR) [EU expiry 30/06/25]   | Mandipropamid* (F) [EU expiry 31/12/25]<br>Lambda-cyhalothrin* (I) [EU expiry 31/08/26]<br>Metaldehyde (M) [EU expiry 31/08/26]<br>Cymoxanil (F) [EU expiry 31/08/26]<br>Fosthiazate (N) [EU expiry 31/01/27] |
|                               | <b>Moderate Impact</b><br>Cost<br>Material availability<br>Working practice  | Azoxystrobin (F) [EU expiry 31/12/24]<br>Imazalil (ST) [EU expiry 31/12/24]<br>Flutolanil (ST) [EU expiry 15/06/25]   | Plant oils/clove oil [EU Expiry 31/01/26]<br>Plant oils/spear mint oil [EU Expiry 31/01/26]<br>Ethylene (GR) [EU expiry 30/11/26]<br>Fonicamid (I) [EU expiry 30/11/26]                                       |
|                               | <b>Small Impact</b><br>Cost<br>Materials<br>Change   | Benthiavalicarb (F) [EU authorisation expiry 13/06/24. Grace period 13/12/24]<br>Dimethomorph (F) [EU expiry 15/02/25]<br>Propamocarb (F) [EU expiry 15/06/25]<br>Flufenacet (H) [EU expiry 15/06/25] | Difenconazole* (F) [EU expiry 15/03/26]<br>Fluazinam* (F) [EU expiry 15/04/26]<br>Esfenvalerate (I) [EU expiry 31/05/26]<br>Fluopicolide (F) [EU expiry 31/08/26]<br>Prosulfocarb (H) [EU expiry 31/01/27]    |
|                               |  |   |   |

Current issue

Changed priority

Identified as a potential high profile media issue

\*Potential Endocrine disruptor

H – Herbicide, F – Fungicide, GR- Growth Regulator, I – Insecticide, ST – Seed Treatment, N – Nematicide, D – Desiccant, M – Molluscicides

# Plant Health / SPS Seeds issue

## EU delegation currently visiting UK for an SPS equivalency audit

The EU audit team was in Scotland 24-28 October, inspecting SASA facilities as well as local farm inspections including storage.

The same team was carrying out similar visits in England on the 29-30 October.

5 November is when the wash up meeting will be held but no quick outcomes are anticipated.

As part of the preparations, it was reported that 'ware' potato growers were being reminded that they must register with APHA in England and Wales. Previously this was managed by AHDB Potatoes.

Form for registration published on 13 October 2024

LINK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-to-become-a-plant-health-professional-operator>

EUROPATAT also met with Scottish Rural Affairs Secretary, Mairi Gougeon MSP, w/c 21 October to discuss access to Scottish Seed potatoes.

# Fight Against Blight (FAB)

## Latest FAB sponsor report

On 3 September a sample was collected from a late blight 'strike' (an area where a new naturally occurring infection has appeared) in Lampeter, Wales. Genotyping proved it to be caused by the EU-46 genotype. This is the first report in GB.

DNA mutations present have been linked to oxathiapiprolin resistance.

A relevant single DNA mutation was found to the fungicide mandipropamid (CAA group of fungicides).

No clear route by which this clone has spread to the trial site.

The variety sampled was King Edward from UK seed stock which is used routinely at the site (only Scottish seed was used at this site).

ADAS determined that EU46 arrived at the site late in the season, as it was not present in earlier samples.

The trial site was burnt down on 13 September and the tubers will be disposed of responsibly.

A second case of the EU46 genotype has been reported. This time in North-East Scotland. No further details at present.

REMINDER Links to manufacturer's guidance will be provided in the FRAG Guidelines.

[https://projectblue.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Imported%20Publication%20Docs/AHDB%20Cereals%20&%20Oilseeds/Disease/FRAG/FRAG-UK%20potato%20late%20blight%20guidelines%20\(April%202024\).pdf](https://projectblue.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Imported%20Publication%20Docs/AHDB%20Cereals%20&%20Oilseeds/Disease/FRAG/FRAG-UK%20potato%20late%20blight%20guidelines%20(April%202024).pdf)

# Late blight action Plan (Europe)

## Emerging situation in Europe with spread and dominance of EU-43 and emergence of EU-46

EuroBlight: 2023 saw the highest ever reporting of disease incidence.

- Blight epidemic widespread across Europe favoured by conducive weather conditions.
- Increased aggressiveness of *Phytophthora infestans* with shortened incubation times (3 days).
- New emerging clones moving into dominant position in year of detection (EU-46).
- Detection of fungicide resistance to CAA and OSBPI – fungicides.
- Detection of multiple fungicide resistance CAA + OSBPI fungicides (e.g. EU-43 and EU-46).
- Accumulation of virulence to major *Phytophthora* resistance genes.

COPA-COGECA led the development of a late blight action plan: PPA participated in its development through EUPPA.

28 May 2024: Plan was uploaded to the COPA-COGECA website and a press release was issued. Letters sent to DG AGRIC and SANTE requesting a meeting to discuss.

11 July 2024: DG AGRI and DG SANTE met with representatives of the European potato value chain (including EUPPA, Europatat, CropLife Europe, Euroseeds, Starch Europe and NEPG) to discuss the action plan.

- In discussion, the European Commission highlighted some of the tools and programmes already existing through the CAP and Horizon Europe frameworks.
- The possibility of setting up an EIP focus group was also raised ([https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/operational-groups\\_en](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/operational-groups_en)).

**PPA to maintain a monitoring brief.**

# Virus

## Summit on Addressing the Virus Threat to Scottish Seed and Ware Crops

Hosted by the National Virus Forum and Plant Health Centre, and facilitated by GB Potatoes and SAC Consulting.

To be held at the James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee on 3 December.

Agenda and papers for the meeting expected to be issued at the start of November.

Planning now underway for the National Virus meeting to be held on 20 February (last time held at FERA, York)

**PPA to maintain a monitoring brief.**

# ACRYLAMIDE: Progress of ML and BML proposals

## Commission is preparing to set new and revised Benchmark and Maximum Levels for Acrylamide in certain foods

Commission presented as part of the ACRYRED conference (4-5 September):

- Confirmed that a new detailed proposal for (B)MLs is still being worked on.
- Delay cause by challenges/difficulties encountered with analysis of data held by EFSA.
- Another stakeholder forum is anticipated in 2025 to inform of Commission/Member State discussions.

(B)MLs will be based on occurrence data, and will be split into two sets:

- Sampling years 2016-2017-2018 (ante Regulation (EU) 2017/2158)
- Sampling years 2019-2020-2021-2022-2023 (Post Regulation (EU) 2017/2158)

Data from 2016-2018 will only be used in there is limited data available.

MLs to be set for broad categories to **minimize the risk of misclassification**.

This means that the MLs have to be set taking into account the food subcategory with the highest acrylamide levels (i.e. higher MLs).

The difference between the BML and the ML, for certain food subcategories, might be large.

# ACRYLAMIDE: Other items of relevance

- The FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius “Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods” (CAC/RCP 67-2009).
  - Current version published in 2009.
  - In April 2024 Codex agreed to start work on a revised version of the COP.
- In July 2024 China issued its own draft National Food Safety Standard Code of Principle for The Control of Acrylamide Contamination in Food and notified this to WTO
- On 18 June 2024 “SAFE” (Safe Food Advocacy Europe) launched an update to its ‘awareness-raising campaign on acrylamide’.

LINK:

<https://www.safefoodadvocacy.eu/safe-launches-campaign-on-acrylamide-calls-for-urgent-action-on-limiting-the-substance-in-food/>

# GLYCOALKALOIDS FORUM – FOLLOW-UP

As a follow-up of the meeting, PVC prepared a draft Statement of the Potato Value Chain on Glycoalkaloids in Potatoes and Potato Products. The intention is to share the document with the Commission.

## Main Points:

- PVC believes a risk-benefit assessment is crucial when discussing GAs content in potatoes.
- In terms of consumer exposure, proper storage and home preparation, especially peeling, are important to minimize exposure to GAs
- There is no common understanding in the sector about the analytical method used to measure GAs at European level
- The PVC would like to stress that there are still many research gaps regarding GAs occurrence, mitigation measures, etc. GAs are important to ensure plants' natural resistance. Also, GAs concentration in potatoes to be processed can be limited via various good manufacturing practices.

# 2025 meeting dates

## PPTC Committee

March (Date and Timing TBC)

Location TBC

July (Date and Timing TBC)

Location TBC

October (Date and Timing TBC)

Location TBC