



SPCS Season Review and Trends



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Weather impact on Growing Season Inspections (GSI's)

The 2024 season was a very rare one in that GSI's were still being completed in September due to late planting caused by wet weather. In most years, the majority of GSI's are completed in June and July.

Conversely, the 2025 season had a very early planting season with most GSI's completed in July. However, some delays occurred due to crops stopping due to lack of rain. We focused on inspecting at the right growth stage rather than calendar days since 1st inspection.

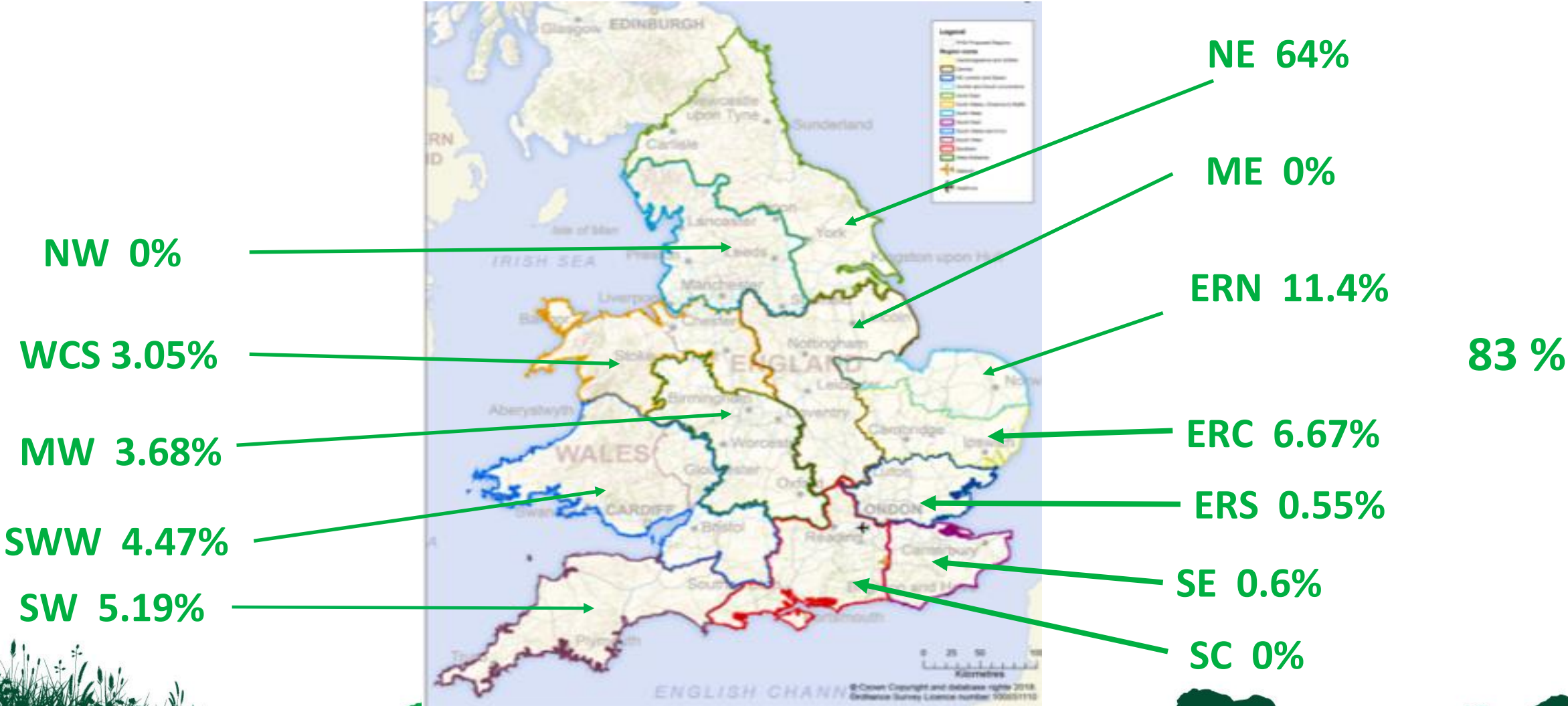
Some crops were still growing a long time after second inspection to when haulm destruction occurred. Risk of in season virus spread not picked up at second inspections. Also, secondary growth on tubers.

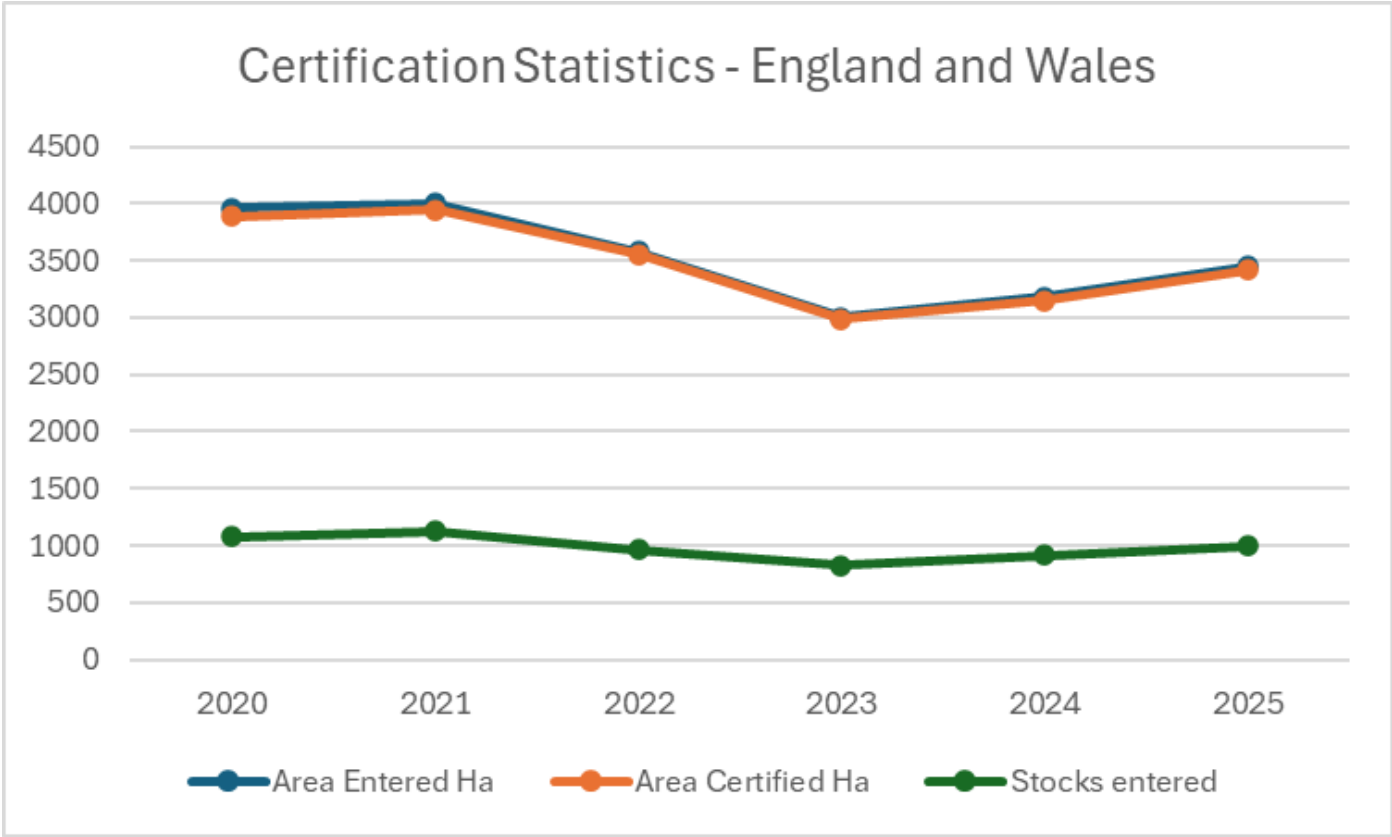
NB Growing season inspection timing

- i) First inspection when plants have met along the row and just before they meet across the rows
- ii) Second inspection takes place two weeks after the first inspection towards the end of flowering



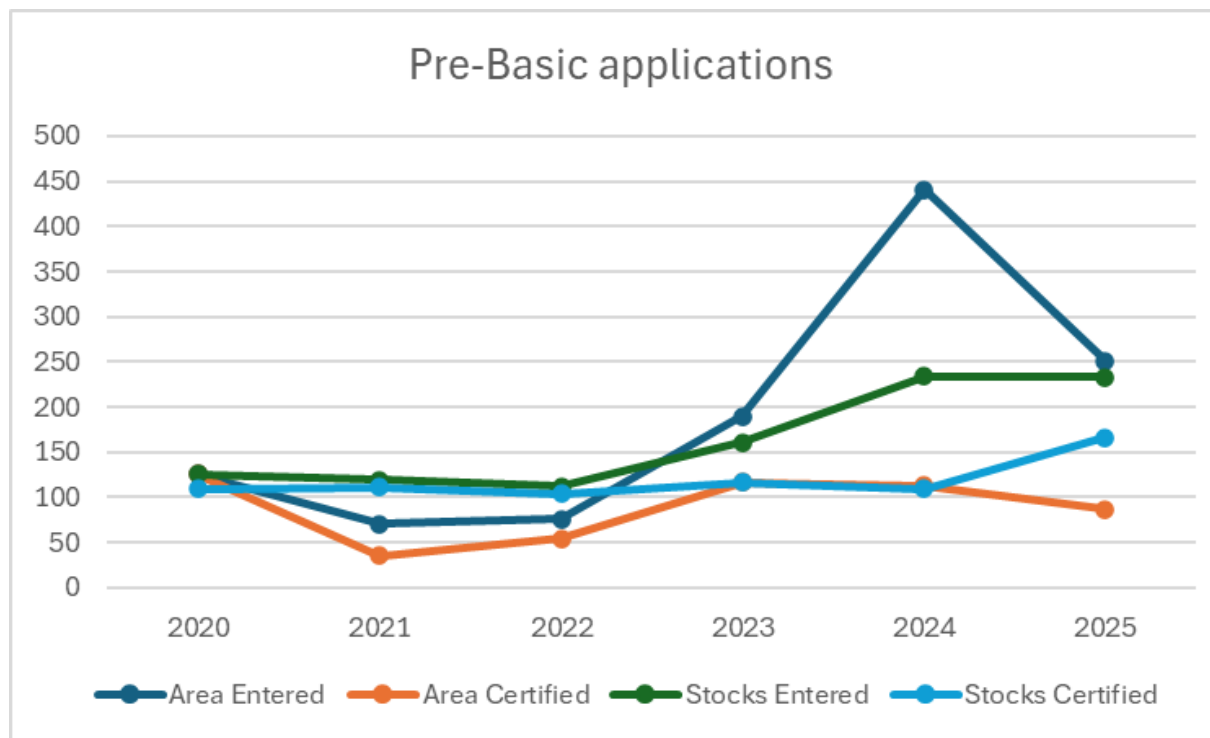
SPCS – 2025 seed area per region





Certification Statistics

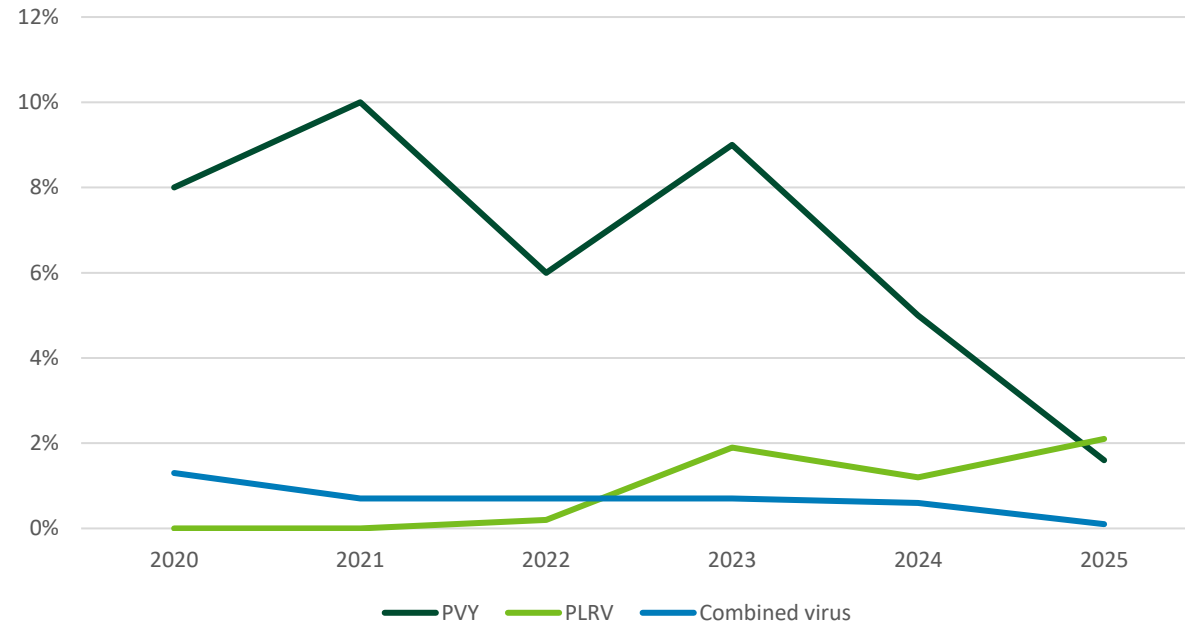
Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2024 Change on previous season
Area entered (Ha.)	3448	3183	3005	3582	4005	3963	8% increase
Area certified (Ha.)	3415	3153	2984	3553	3947	3892	8% increase
Stocks entered	999	915	824	965	1125	1079	9% increase



Pre basic hectarage

Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Change from 2024
Area entered (Ha.)	251	441	190	76	71	126	43% decrease
Area certified (Ha)	87	113	117	54	35	126	23% decrease
Stocks entered	233	234	161	112	119	126	same
Stocks certified	166 (71%)	109 (47%)	117(73%)	104 (93%)	111 (93%)	109 (87%)	

Downgrades due to virus



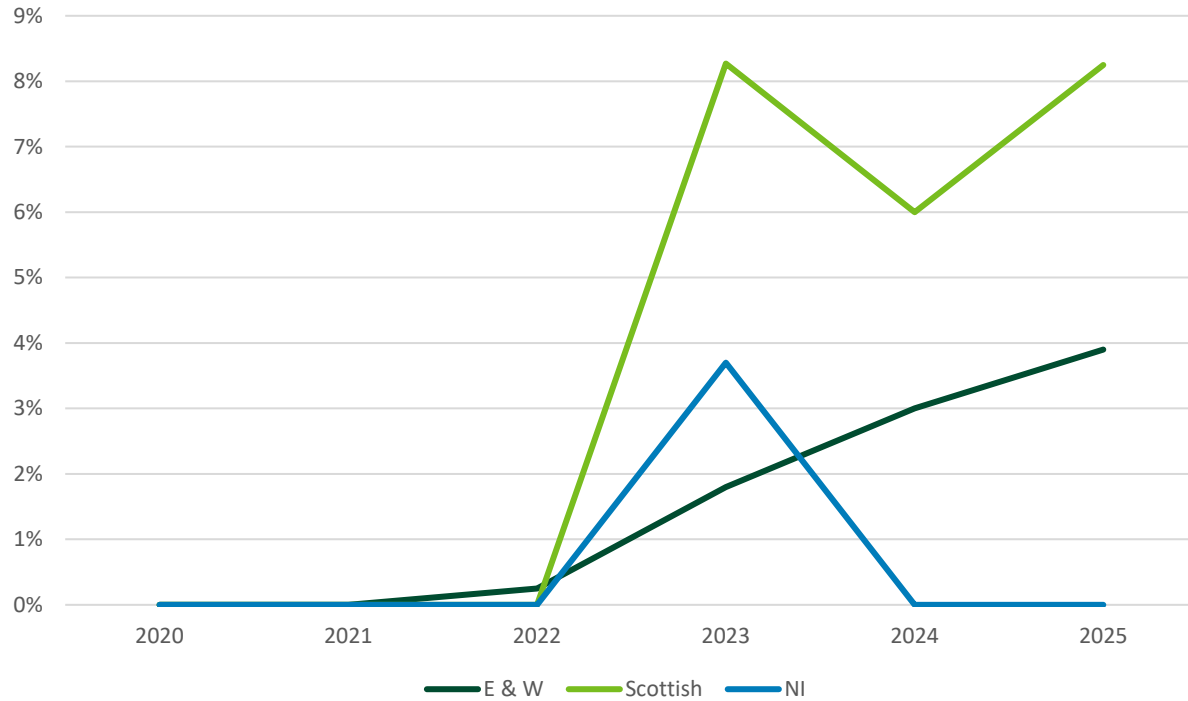
Downgrades

year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
blackleg	15 (1.4%)	39 (3.5%)	8 (0.8%)	18 (2.2%)	102 (11%)	22 (2.2%)
HD downgrades	11 (1%)	29 (2.5%)	38 (3.9%)	34 (4.1%)	84 (9.2%)	42 (4.2%)
PLRV	*	*	2 (0.2%)	16 (1.9%)	11 (1.2%)	21 (2.1%)
PVY	87 (8%)	113 (10%)	59 (6.1%)	74 (9%)	48 (5.2%)	16 (1.6%)
comb. Viruses	14 (1.3%)	8 (0.7%)	7 (0.7%)	6 (0.7%)	6 (0.6%)	1 (0.1%)
Total Virus downgrades	101 (9.3%)	121 (10.7%)	68 (7%)	96 (11.6%)	63 (6.9%)	38 (3.8%)

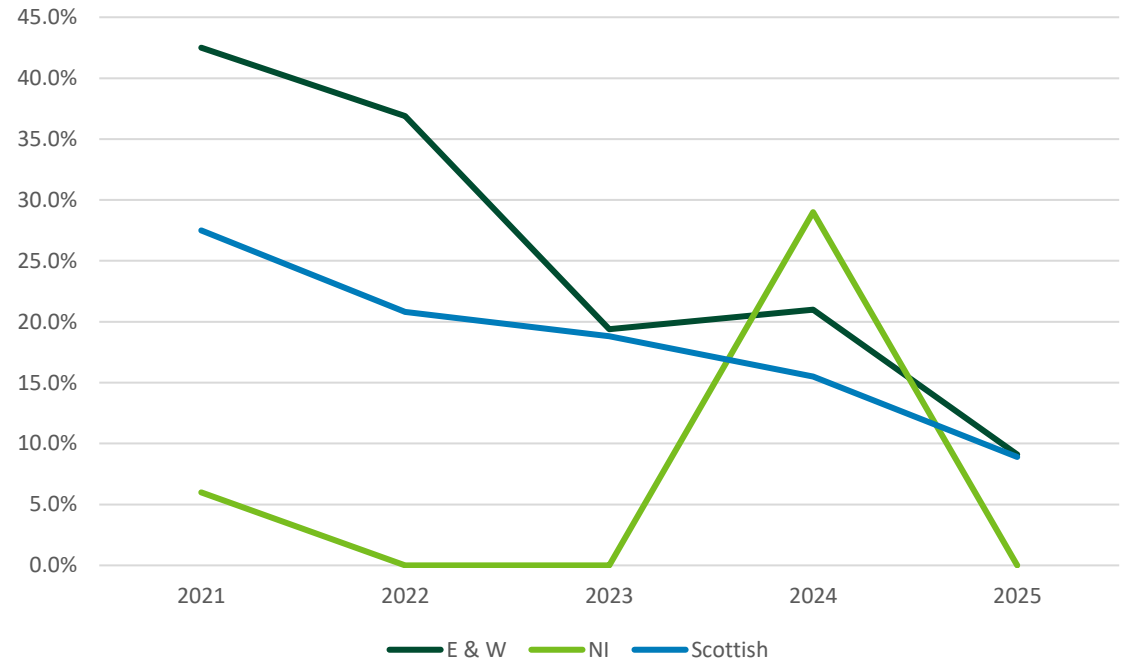
- Figure in brackets is the percentage of stocks effected.

Origin of Seed

Stocks with some PLRV



Stocks with Some PVY



Other downgrades

Downgrades

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All downgrades by origin of parent stock

Haulm Destruction Downgrades

Failed Haulm Destruction 2025	Number
PB compulsory	19
over a third of tolerance at grade entered	9
downgraded but still requiring HD at lower grade	14
Total	42

Downgrade	No of Stocks	E & W	Scotland	NI
Isolation	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
blackleg	22	0	22 (4.4%)	0
combined virus	1	0	1 (0.2%)	0
PLRV	21	3 (0.6%)	18 (3.6%)	0
PVY	16	4 (0.8%)	12 (2.4%)	0
rogues	9	3 (0.6%)	4 (0.8%)	2
UDV's	2	0	2 (0.4%)	0
Voluntary	4	n/a	n/a	n/a
virus in adjacent stock	34	n/a	n/a	n/a
Single inspection	6	n/a	n/a	n/a
HD incomplete	42	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	167 (16.7%)			

Grower Feedback on inspection policy



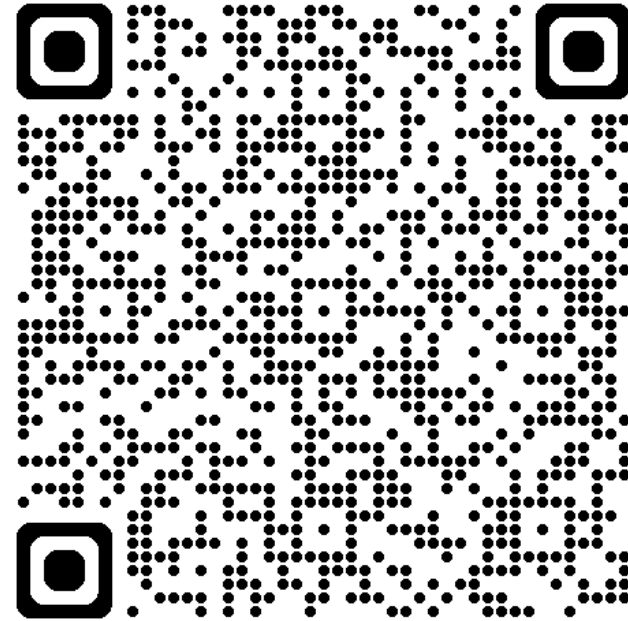
Topic	Current situation	Summary of feedback
Blank rows	Blank rows required between all stocks	Blank rows attract aphids.
21 day haulm destruction	21 days post second inspection when virus level exceeds 1/3 of tolerance for the grade or for all Pre-basic stocks	Due to withdrawal of authorisation for different sprays in recent years, the arsenal available to achieve a successful HD is becoming small.

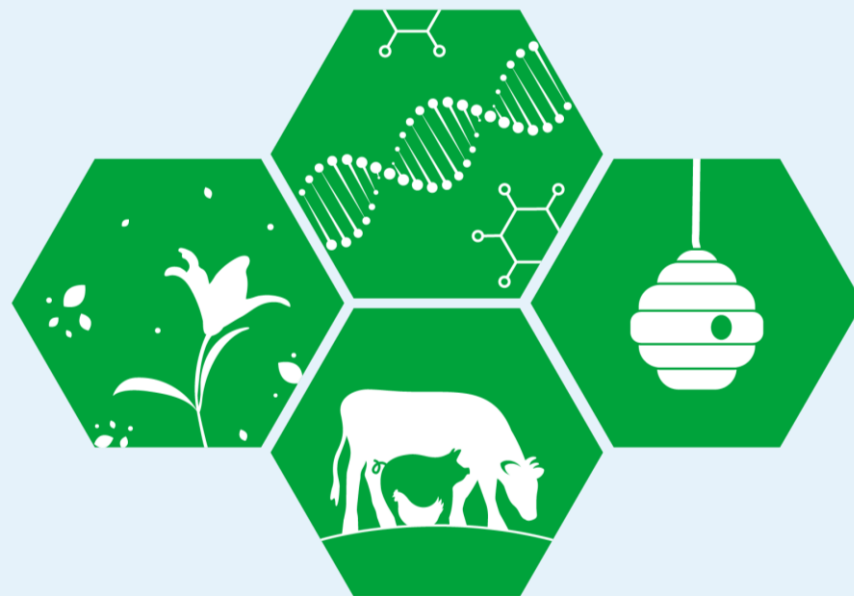


Guidance

Guidance

[Explanatory Guide to the Seed Potato Classification Scheme and Approved Stock Scheme 2025 to 2026](#)





SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

— Our APHA strategy



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Annex – additional information

