Seed Potato Trial

Lohrey Mac 1 tuber weight trial

Method

Two adjacent 1 ha rectangular blocks, Treated and Control, were marked out in a 40-ha paddock where potatoes were to be grown for seed

The Control block received the normal fertiliser application only, the Treated received this and also Ectol as follows:

- 10 litres/ha in furrow at planting on 5 November 2015
- 5 litres as a foliar spray on 18 December (Week 6)
- 5 litres on 31 December (Week 8)

The potatoes were sprayed with Reglone on 10 March and harvested on 17 March

The harvester was stopped at random five times in each of the blocks and a sample of 100 tubers taken as a 10 x 10 grid. This gave five 100 tuber samples of Treated and Control

The tubers were weighed individually, and the results analysed statistically (see attached)

Results

The following can be seen

- Treated and Control Grand Means are 168 and 186 – T/C is 0.90
- Standard Deviations are 84 and 106 T/C is 0.79
- Standard Variances are 7276 and 11160 T/C is 0.65

The Treated tubers were therefore on average smaller, and the sample more uniform

Conclusion

As with the trial on Russet Burbanks, Ectol as applied (albeit in a different way) produced a more uniform crop of slightly smaller tubers, which is what is wanted for a seed crop

Dr Mike Walker

Plant Physiology Consultant

wvipl@activ8.net.au