Mitigating common scab

LIMEX

Common scab - key facts

- Caused mainly by the bacterium *Streptomyces scabiei*, **common scab develops when tubers experience a dry surface during the critical stage, 3-6 weeks following tuber initiation.** Maris Piper is widely recognised as particularly susceptible.
- Common scab significantly decreases the marketability of a potato crop.
- While correctly applied irrigation during tuber initiation provides effective control, increased restrictions on water use and more frequent extreme summer heatwaves provide reasons to adopt alternative approaches to control.

How applying lime reduces scab symptoms

Supplying the soil with abundant available calcium will allow the tubers to uptake the nutrient and help the potato better defend itself. It does this by strengthening cell walls, preventing an infection from spreading through the tuber.

Another factor is soil pH. AHDB's 2018 review of liming points to pH and common scab having an upper optimum pH limit for Streptomyces scabiei of 7.5. Pushing soil pH by liming to that limit reduces the scab risk.

Choose LimeX for fast-acting scab control

The fine particle size of LimeX means it will begin to work to raise soil pH and increase available calcium to the root zone in just four to six weeks, which is critical when considering tuber initiation can be five to six weeks after planting.

Beyond scab prevention, the additonal calcium will also help reduce the impact of calcium deficiency symptoms such as Internal Rust Spot.

10 t/ha of LimeX would deliver 90 kg/ha of phosphate. According to RB209, this would be 36 – 90% of the crop's phosphate requirement, depending on the soil indices. It's a similar picture for magnesium.





Want to know more?

For more information or to speak to one of our FACTS Qualified Advisers contact us on 0800 090 2376

If you are a sugar beet grower for British Sugar please speak to your Agriculture Manager

LimeX is a calcium carbonate liming product, manufactured by British Sugar Plc as a co-product of sugar purification. It has a super fine particle size and extra nutrients that aren't found in other ordinary liming products.

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