

# Scheduling irrigation to optimise yield and quality in potatoes

**Optimise yield, quality, crop value.**

**Save money through better water and energy efficiency.**

**Reduce nutrient losses and erosion.**

## Designed for:

Agronomists, potato business employees, those in the supply chain, farm managers and farmers who want to improve the performance of potato crops

## Entry requirement:

An intermediate course best suited to those who are **able** to demonstrate some practical experience

## Price:

£120 + VAT

## Duration:

A half day classroom-based course

## CPD points:

6 BASIS points and 1 NRoSO point

## Learning outcomes:

### At the end of this course participants will:

- Know how and why plants use water (calculation of evapotranspiration, crop coefficients)
- Be able to select fields for different end uses based on soil water supply
- Be able to choose varieties for tolerance/resistance to drought
- Be able to schedule irrigation (legislation, methods, data collection)
- Understand the effect of irrigation on crop quality
- Be able to weigh up the benefits and disadvantages of soil moisture measurement tools (accuracy, precision, practicality)
- Be able to select application technology (equipment selection, operation and uniformity)
- Understand how scheduling works in practice

## Content:

### Classroom module 1 (half day):

- Estimating evapotranspiration demand (including a modelling tool exercise)
- Drought tolerance
- Soil water supply (texture, rooting depth, compaction)
- Determining limiting deficit and the dynamics of different deficits
- Crop quality (common scab and other diseases, cracking, bruising)
- Measurement tools
- Application (equipment and monitoring)
- Practical scheduling exercise

## Trainer:

Dr Mark Stalham, Senior Research Associate, NIAB CUF

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