



## Slug Control in Potatoes with Ironclad

Slug control is important across the rotation and not just in potatoes in order to keep slug numbers low. Cultivations in potatoes can help to destroy adult slugs but not slug eggs. However, cultivations are still an important aspect of cultural control. Some varieties like Maris Piper are more susceptible to slug damage, but slugs do feed on all varieties, if potatoes are their only food source.

Slug damage is usually worst on heavier soils with a higher clay content, and close to headlands and hedgerows, which can act as a reservoir for slugs.

It is also important to take into account historical data, when assessing the potential level of damage – is the field known to be susceptible to slugs, previous cropping and rotation; field brassicas and oilseed rape allow slug numbers (and eggs) to build up.

Finally, the market destination of your potato crop is also important. For example, the pre-packing market only has a very low tolerance to slug damaged tubers.

**Timing: 1<sup>st</sup> application - just prior to crop canopy closing over**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> application – 2 to 3 weeks later**

**Rate: 7gks/ha Ironclad**

It is important to make the first application at this early timing. Once the canopy closes over, the slugs are driven down from the soil surface, where the pellets are sitting, into the soil profile and close to the tubers. This early timing especially applies to irrigated crops, which can move through their growth stages quickly.

If slug pressure remains high during the growing season, and you have susceptible fields or varieties, it is possible to apply further throughout the season, reducing the rate to 5kg/ha where you are applying more frequently.

**Total maximum dose of Ironclad is 28kgs/ha**

Many growers also find it advantageous to also apply slug pellets at the end of the season, when the canopy opens up again. The advantage of Ironclad is that it does not have a harvest interval.

### Benefits of Ironclad

1. Ironclad contains **20% more active ingredient** than other products on the market, ensuring that slug kill is quick and effective
2. The pellet is a unique **VIVID BLUE colour**, making monitoring for reapplication a quick and easy process for growers