
MAGGROW REDUCES COSTS FOR SEED POTATO GROWER

'Reduction rate: 20% - 25% less chemicals and 20% - 25% less water per ha'.
Gosse Schuiling - Seed Potatoes in The Netherlands

Overview

This case study was conducted over an entire growing season in the northern region of the Netherlands, where the majority of Seed Potatoes are grown. The potatoes are grown for supply across international markets, sold to companies all over the world. Quality is essential to maintain the market share and leadership position. Disease tolerance in the highest class of Seed Potatoes is zero.

The farm size is far above average in the Netherlands and around 30% of the cropping plan consist of seed potatoes. The crop was sprayed with Fungicides, Herbicides and Insecticides using MagGrow Technology retrofitted onto a new Agrifac 51 meter sprayer. Previously, conventional spraying techniques used 250 litres of water per hectare, and now with MagGrow Technology the usage has dropped to 200 litres of water per hectare. In addition, the chemical dose has also been reduced to 75%-80% of conventional rates.

The chemical rates and water volumes were decided by the grower

Background

The Schuiling farm is well-known in the Friesland region of the Netherlands. The seed potatoes are primarily grown for export. The Schuilings are progressive farmers and focus on the quality of their products.

The Schuilings were involved with MagGrow since 2014 and developed a good understanding and appreciation of the ground breaking and patented drift reduction technology enabling savings on both water and chemicals. In late 2016 MagGrow acquired drift reduction approval from the TCT organization in the Netherlands. In doing this MagGrow recognized that input from growers in the Netherlands was a key element in this process.

Gosse Schuiling was investing in a new Agrifac self-propelled 51 meter sprayer in 2016. MagGrow Technology was installed in April 2017 and the sprayer was delivered by Faber Agracentrum, an Agrifac and MagGrow dealer in Friesland, in Spring of 2017.

Results

After a season of spraying, the Schuilings can confirm the benefits of incorporating MagGrow Technology to spray operations. In the first case the TCT approved technology ensured a drift reduction of over 75% which means the farm is fully compliant with regulations. In addition, he benefits that are realized due the drift reduction are substantial.

By reducing drift the farmer is up-to-date with upcoming law and regulations according cultivation-free zones. The finer droplets lead to a better coverage of the crops and the Schuilings are benefiting as a result. The combination of a Case Study at Lelystad and the trials at their own farm, they have chosen to reduce the amount of water and chemicals by 20% to 25%.

MagGrow provides a tool kit to reduce drift and provide better coverage. Other customers choose to reduce the number of spray events which also allows them to realize a substantial saving.

Summary

The MagGrow system is classified in the 95% drift reduction category with 03-nozzles and 2 bar pressure. Results show, through drift reduction, the usage of finer droplets that MagGrow provides better adhesion and crop coverage and substantial savings on water and chemicals of 20% to 25%. The system can also offer increased spray windows and increased driving speeds and can be installed on both existing and new sprayers.