

# Growing Seed Potatoes and other things in Norfolk, UK

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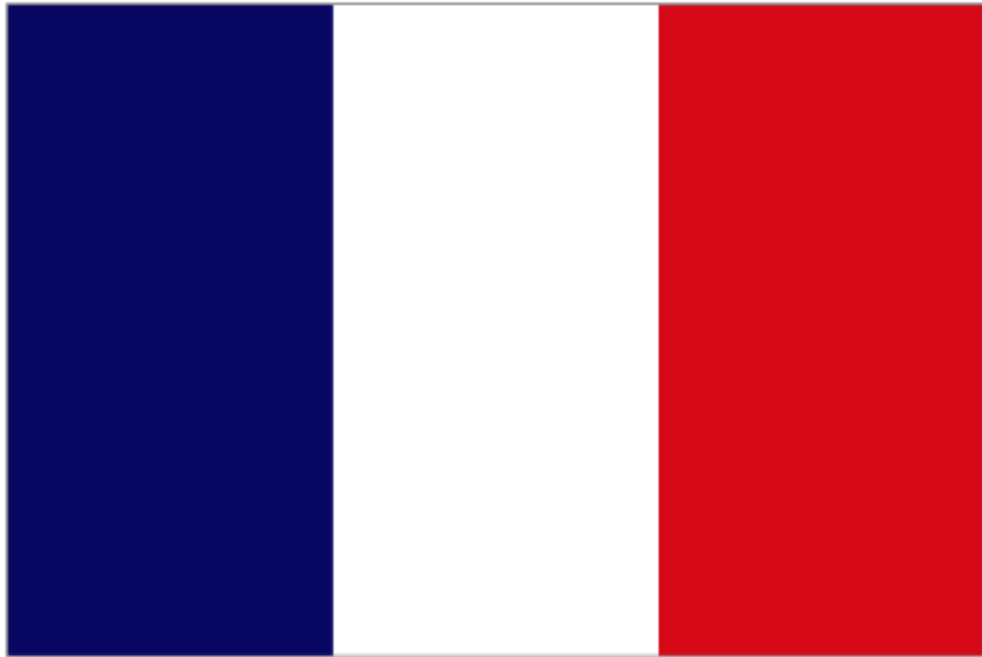
SOPHIE BAMBRIDGE

B&C FARMING LTD

FARMERS • CONTRACTORS • SEED PRODUCERS

# CAVEAT....

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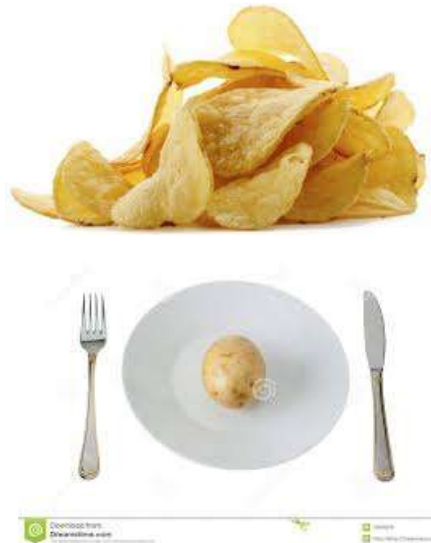
# EXTRAS

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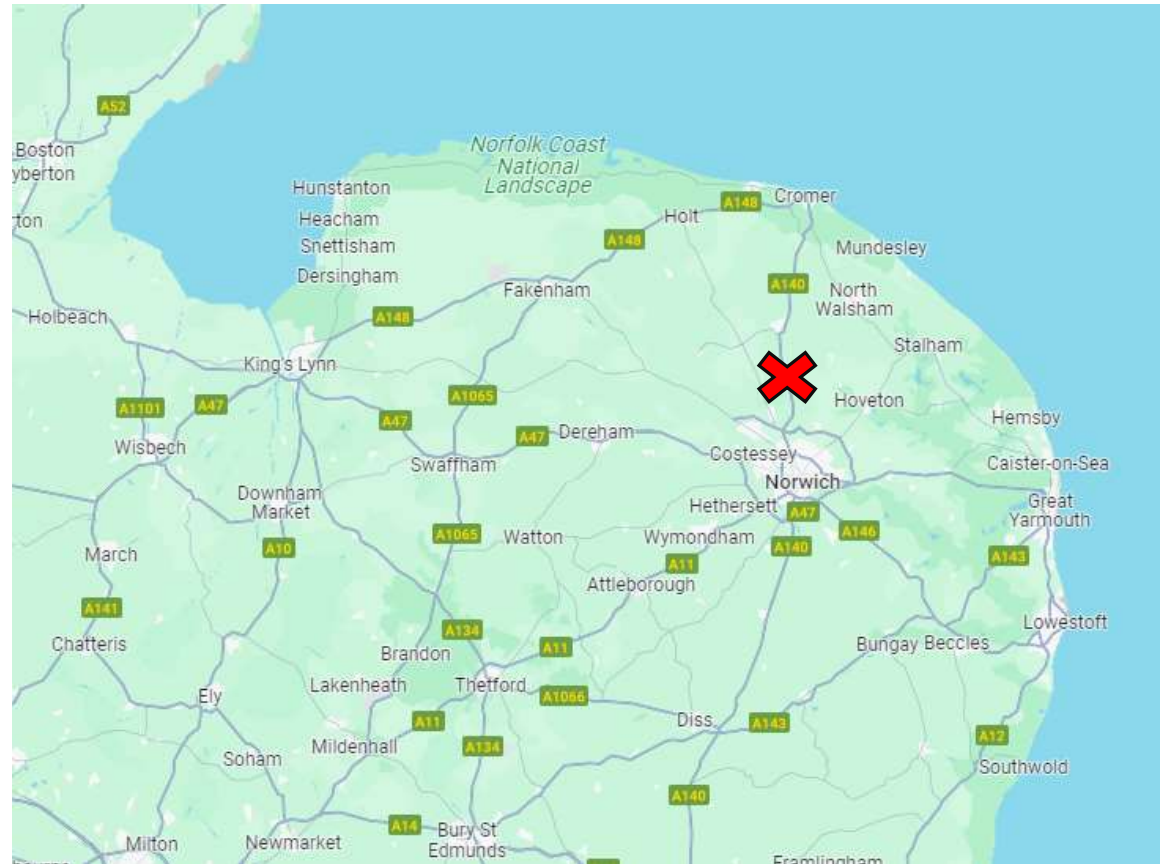
# UK POTATO LANDSCAPE

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# WHERE ARE WE

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# B&C Farming

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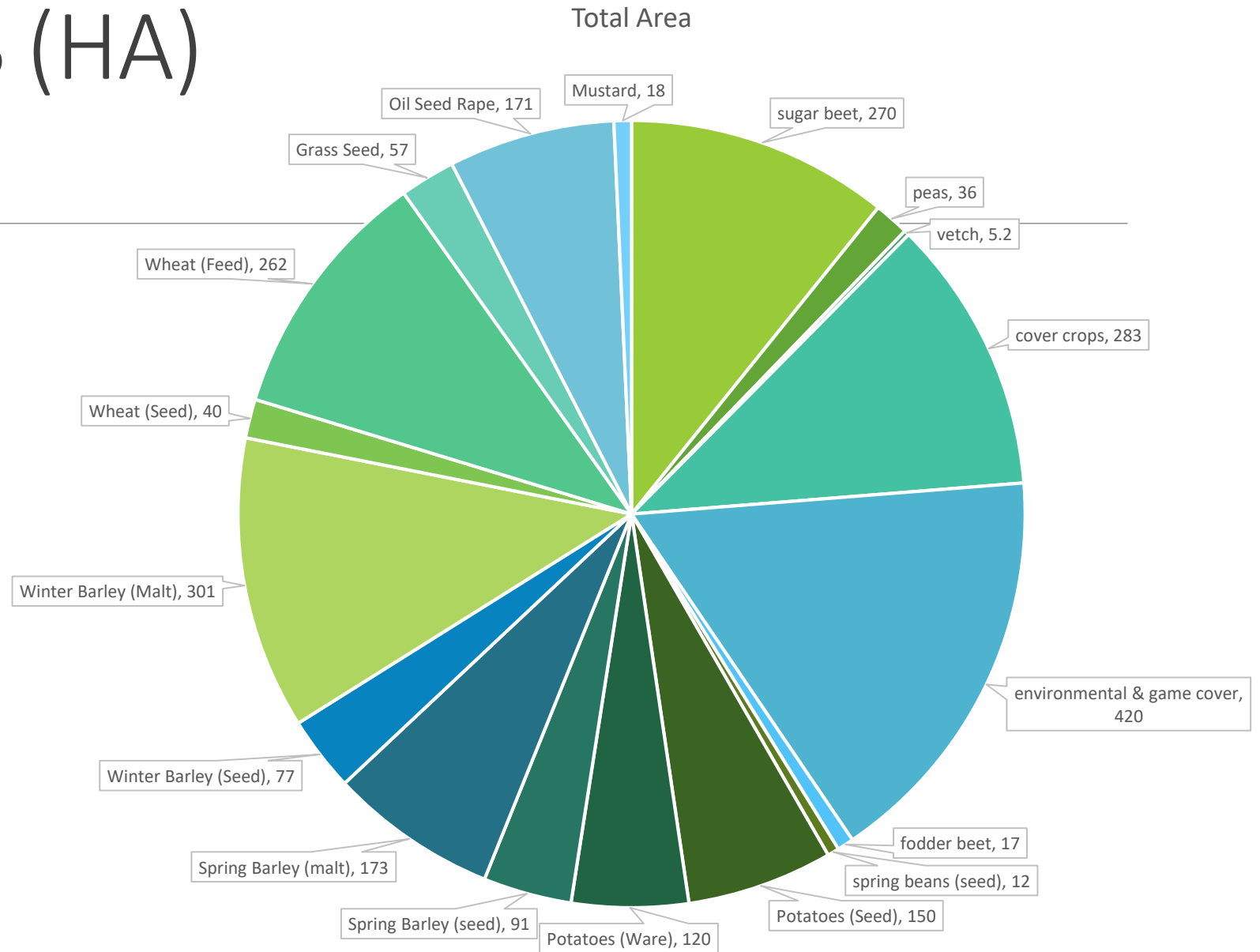
- B&C Potatoes 1989
- B&C Farming in 1999/2000
- Focus on growing for a known customer/planned market
- 2016 – I joined the business & Chris Day promoted to Technical Manager
- 2018 - New seed store & grading line built increasing seed business by 30% £1.6m investment
- 2018 – first year growing seed for McCain and started seed cutting operation
- 2020 – significant growth in area +550ha cropped
- 2024 – new site acquired under lease to support growth and improve working efficiencies



# Yard & Farm Site



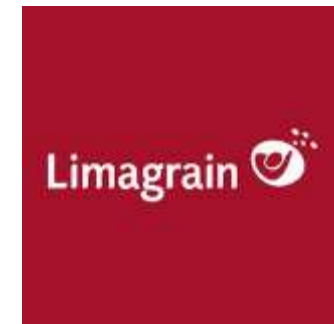
# TOTAL CROPS (HA)





# CUSTOMERS

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# SEED GRADING & HANDLING

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCbLv\\_hKE1g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCbLv_hKE1g)

# SEED GRADING & HANDLING CONT

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# SEED GRADING & HANDLING CONT

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# SEED GRADING & HANDLING CONT

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# SEED GRADING & HANDLING CONT

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# SEED STORAGE

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# SEED STORAGE CONT

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# SEED STORAGE CONT

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# SEED STORAGE

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# SEED CUTTING

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# SEED CUTTING CONT

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# SEED CUTTING

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# SEED - OTHER



**Seed rate recommendation for Mariona for specified yield and average tuber size\* for a planting date of 15 April**

Yield (t/ha) : Average tuber size (mm)						
		45:60‡	50:60		55:60	
		(60:66)	(66:66)		(73:66)	
Tuber count / 50kg	Plant density (000/ha)	Seed rate (t/ha)	Plant density (000/ha)	Seed rate (t/ha)	Plant density (000/ha)	Seed rate (t/ha)
Standard seed (emerged 1 June)						
2400	53	1.10	66	1.36	83	1.73
2000	50	1.25	62	1.55	79	1.96
1600	46	1.44	57	1.78	72	2.26
1200	41	1.70	50	2.10	64	2.67
1000	37	1.86	46	2.31	59	2.94
900	35	1.96	44	2.43	56	3.09
800	33	2.07	41	2.57	52	3.26
700	31	2.19	38	2.72	48	3.45
600	28	2.32	35	2.88	44	3.66
500	25	2.48	31	3.07	39	3.90
400	21	2.65	26	3.29	33	4.18
Late seed (emerged 15 July)						
2400	62	1.30	77	1.61	96	2.05
2000	58	1.45	72	1.80	91	2.28
1600	52	1.64	65	2.03	82	2.58
1200	45	1.88	56	2.33	71	2.96
1000	41	2.03	50	2.52	64	3.20
900	38	2.12	47	2.63	60	3.33
800	35	2.21	44	2.74	56	3.48
700	32	2.31	40	2.87	51	3.64
600	29	2.42	36	3.00	46	3.81
500	25	2.54	32	3.15	40	4.01
400	21	2.68	27	3.32	34	4.22

\*Average tuber size is the grade with the greatest proportion of yield. Assuming a coefficient of variation of 0.10, around 50% of yield is 60-65mm where average tuber size is 60mm. Yields indicated are the total tuber yields rather than marketable yields above a minimum size (where average tuber size is 60mm around 55% of yield may be marketable in the future harvest).





# PROCESSING GRADING & HANDLING

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# PROCESSING STORAGE

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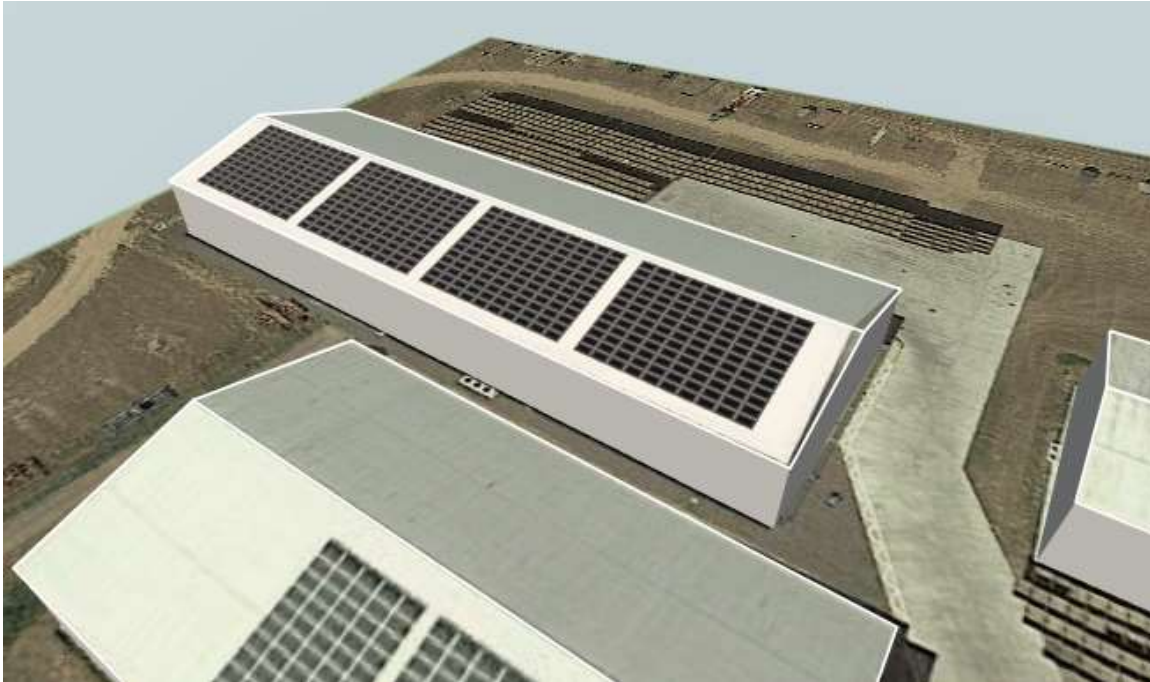


# SPROUT SUPPRESSION



# SOLAR INSTALLATION PLANNING

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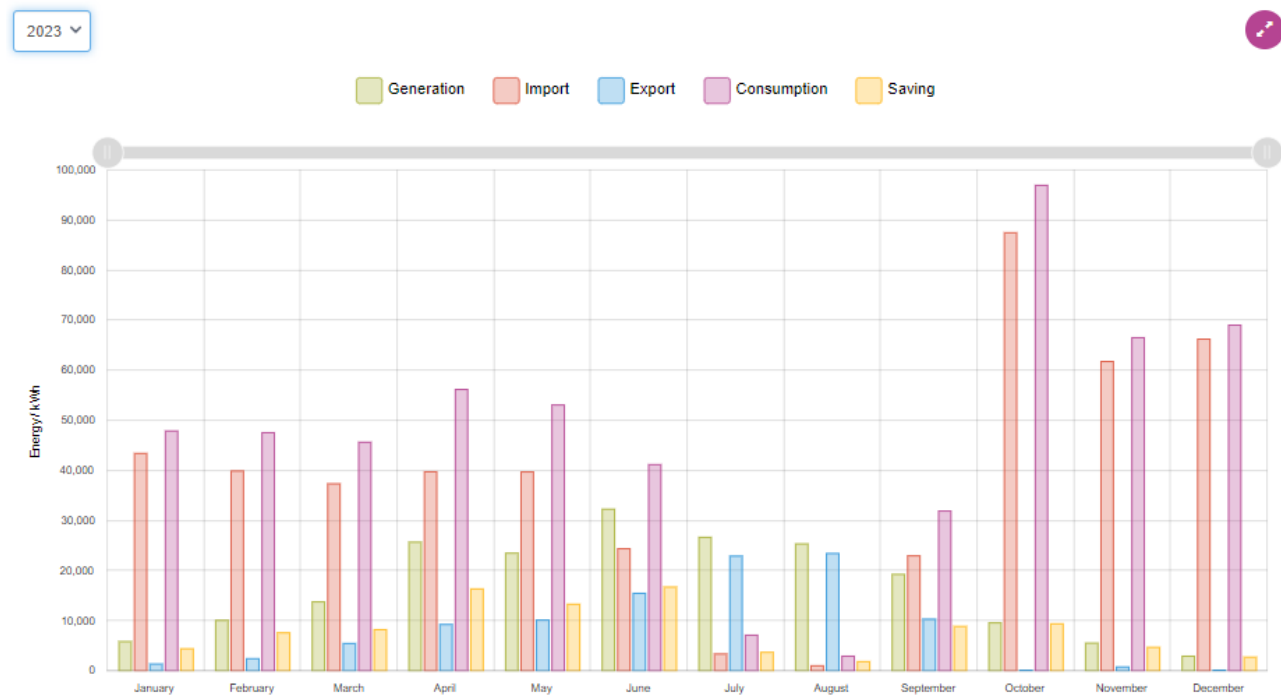
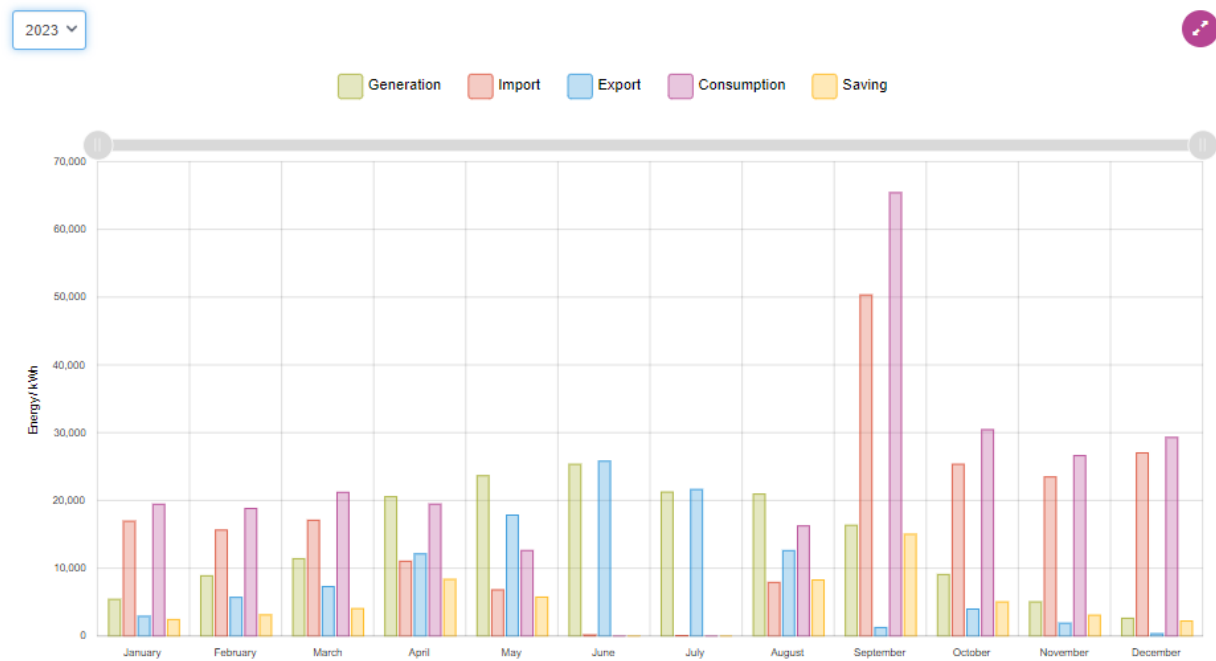


# INVESTMENT IN SOLAR





# SOLAR USAGE



# PLANTING

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# SOILS

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VESS SCORE 1



VESS SCORE 2



VESS SCORE 3



VESS SCORE 4



# SPRAYING & CROP NUTRITION

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# B&C FARMING VIRUS MANAGEMENT

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Virus is our bête noir, growing seed in north Norfolk

More temperate climate usually equates to higher aphid population AND relatively high density of potato crops in the county

Risk based approach:

1. Virus test input seed
2. Understand risks from nearby crops
3. Select field, planting date and variety according to susceptibility and risk
4. Proactive spray programme
5. Multiple Aphid trap sites
6. Effective dessication programme
7. Virus test all seed lots – post dessication, pre-harvest!
8. Full growing on test with NIAB CUF
9. Trialling new cultural control methods & full engagement with research community and academics

**IN SUMMARY – DO THE BASICS WELL, ATTENTION TO DETAIL**

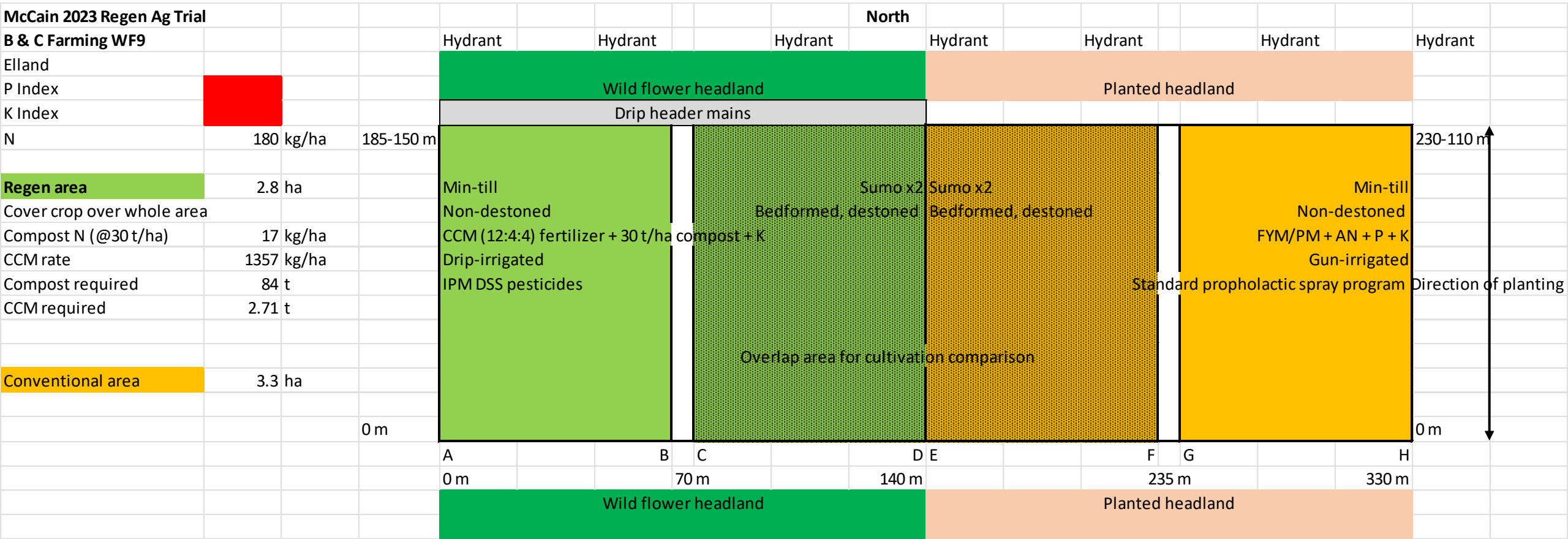


# AND NOW LEARNING FIRST HAND..

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# TRIAL PLANS



# HARVESTING

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# WATER

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# CROP ANALYSIS

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# PEOPLE

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# WORKING WITH MCCAIN

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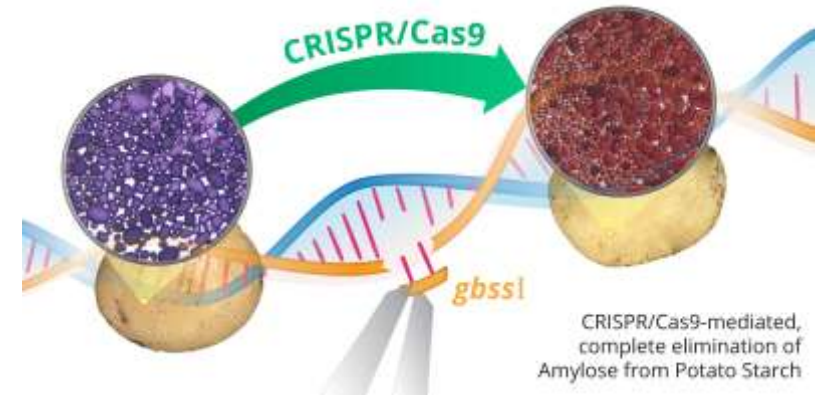
# CHALLENGES

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# OPPORTUNITIES

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THANK YOU!