

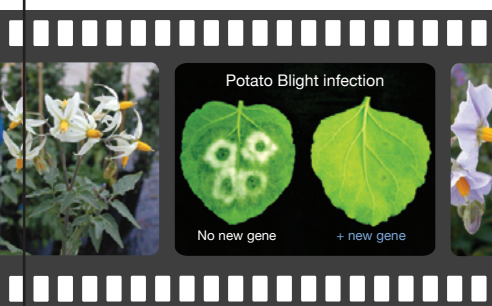
you choose the NEWS

EU Pesticide Ban: Affect on Potatoes

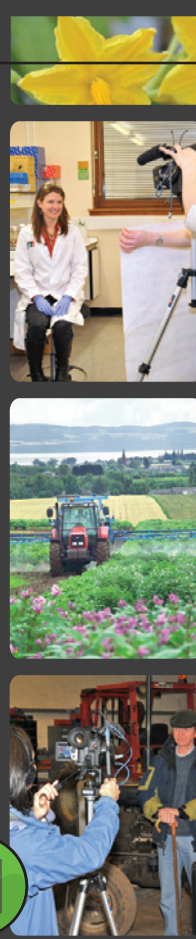
- The European Union (EU) propose to ban many currently important chemical sprays used in farming.
- Is this great news for the environment and for us?
- Can we continue to grow the same quantity and quality of food?

Potato late blight: Still a major problem

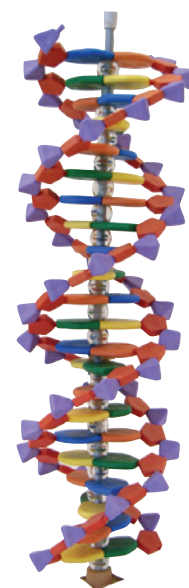
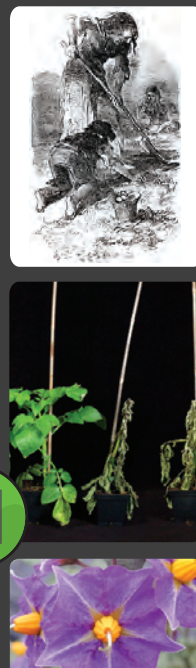
- Currently potato growers rely heavily on pesticides to protect crop yields.
- Potato blight was responsible for the Irish potato famine in 1840s and is still a major problem today.
- This is because new strains of this pathogen keep arriving and evolving from all over the world.
- New strains are better at infecting our potato fields than the old ones!
- Without pesticides, the problem will get much worse!



next



next



....So what can Scientists do to help?

Step 1: Search for wild potato relatives that can resist disease by new strains of potato blight.

Step 2: By looking at wild potato DNA, we can find the genes responsible for resistance.

Step 3: If we can put these new genes into old potatoes we can make them resistant too!



now try our game

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Thank you to all volunteers at SCRI, GSC and STV for advice and time – you know who you are!