

The fight against blight



The Hutton coordinates UK wide surveillance to **detect and respond to late blight** - one of the most persistent and costly diseases affecting potato crops.



A major challenge in managing the disease is the organism's ability to evolve. This presents a constant risk to growers, who rely on timely, evidence-based guidance to manage outbreaks effectively. To help industry manage this risk, the Hutton **coordinates the UK wide late blight monitoring and surveillance programme**. The information provided by the Hutton enables growers to make informed decisions about the timing and intensity of blight control measures.



In 2023, the value of potato production in the UK was £1 billion. Without the Hutton's monitoring and advisory work, it is **estimated losses to blight would have been at least 7% higher**.



The Hutton helps industry avoid approximately **£4.5 million in losses each year** (including around £0.5 million in Scotland).

