

THE TELL-TALE SPOTS

This Insight emphasises the importance of fully understanding the **irrigation** process as part of a balanced **crop management program**.

By Ross Coleman



You can see the 'water spots' on these potatoes. They are a symptom of over-watering.

The Grower was complaining that the plants “were still growing and putting on new growth, but the tubers were not sizing up” – and “it was 140 weeks into a 120 week growing season”. When RLF's Plant Physiologist Dr Hooshang Nassery heard about the problem, and further that the Grower was still irrigating and applying foliar nitrogen 2–3 times a week, his advice was simple.

STOP !! Why ? Because, he was keeping the crop growing, at the expense of tuber-fill.

The Grower stopped and the crop yielded fairly well in the end – but with improved skin colour and higher % of premium-sized tubers. I was asked to deliver a sack of the potatoes to Hooshang, with the Grower's heartiest thanks.....

Have all the irrigation information for crops that you need, because it can be the vital piece of the performance puzzle!