

Potato P Trials Update- July 2014

The DGT Phosphorous project is now well underway following our steering committee meeting in June, grower visits in July and August and numerous technical planning meetings in between. Our full project team has now been appointed, with Dr Rebecca Tonkin, who is based in Murray Bridge with RSSA, taking responsibility for the trials that will be delivered across the Murray Lands, Riverland, and Lower Lakes. Additionally, RSSA staff Dr Melissa Fraser and Lyn Dohle will deliver trials this coming spring and summer in the South East and Kangaroo Island respectively.

Melissa and Rebecca hit the road in July and August to visit growers who have kindly offered their time and resources to participate in the project, covering Kalangadoo to Langhorne Creek, Nildottie to Parilla and beyond; crisping, fresh, processing and seed potato crops are all included in the project. A full list of project participants is included below.

Steering committee members Dr Don Plowman, Dr Sean Mason (University of Adelaide) and Dr Nigel Wilhelm (SARDI) have been given a run for their money too, with much advice sought to determine the exact methods that will be employed in the project. The vast range of differing phosphorous management practices quickly became evident to Dr Fraser during grower visits, from the product, application and incorporation types, to timing and rates used. We have since consulted with our panel and have decided to broadcast all of the P fertiliser in a single application prior to planting at every site to ensure consistency across the 15 replicated trials.

The first of the trials is planned to be established in early September near Naracoorte, with sites in the Murray Lands established shortly thereafter. We then anticipate multiple plantings during October and November and then again in late January and early February in order to get all of the replicated trials in the ground.

We're still in need of sites to conduct demonstration trials too, which require much less land and resources, and are specifically seeking sites on the Northern Adelaide Plains and in the Adelaide Hills; get in touch with one of the project team if you are interested in participating.

Project Delivery - Contacts	Participating Growers (Mainland)
Dr Melissa Fraser RSSA Struan House, Via Naracoorte South East trials Mobile: 0427 084 569	Young G.A. and Sons – Kalangadoo
	Heysen Partners – Kalangadoo
	Kumara Park - Kalangadoo
	Glenroy Plains Pty Ltd – Coonawarra
Dr Rebecca Tonkin RSSA State Flora, Murray Bridge Riverland, Murray Lands, Lower Lakes trials Mobile: 0427273891	The Mitolo Group – Waikerie
	Forster Hill – Nildottie
	SA Potato Company – Peebinga
	Daniell –Bow Hill
Lyn Dohle RSSA Kingscote Kangaroo Island trials Mobile: 0419 846 204	Hill Top Produce - Waikerie
	Michelmore DH&BA/ Sons – Langhorne Creek
	Parilla Premium Potatoes – Parilla

Dr Melissa Fraser

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