



## Potato Demonstration Trial: Longford Tasmania 2017/2018

**Potato variety:** Ranger Russet for Simplot Australia Pty Ltd

**Trial overview:** A field trial, conducted by Toni-Lee Faulkner, aimed to measure the effect on Potato yields and quality from the adoption of ECTOL's specialty liquid fertilisers, including ECTOL Protect & Grow and ECTOL STARTER vs the Standard Protocol used in this region of Tasmania.

**Location of trial and paddock description:** The trial was undertaken on typical sandy loam podzolic soil. The crop was planted into soil that had been grazed from many years and the trial paddock was selected due to its lack of variation or natural hazards over the area. The paddock was divided in half with 10 hectares as a single trial plot and 10 hectares as the control.

Both Trial and Control plots were treated in the same manner with respect to land preparation, handling of the potatoes, pest and disease treatment and harvesting. The only difference was the fertiliser protocols.

Trial Fertiliser Protocol	Control Fertiliser Protocol
Fert at Planting NPK (9.10.25+1) 1.2T	1.6 T
Ectol -STARTER 20L at planting	
Ectol -STARTER 40L as side dressing	
Ectol- PROTECT AND GROW 20Lts split	
Cal Nitrate 150Kg	150Kg
Urea 125Kg	125Kg
Urea/SOP 150Kg/75Kg	150Kg/75Kg
Total Fertiliser cost per hectare: \$1750	\$1589

Results	
Trial (10Ha)	Control (10Ha)
No. Loads: 34	No. Loads:
<b>Ave Yields: 81.83T/Ha</b>	<b>Ave Yields: 50.50T/Ha</b>
Size Distn: 57.3% (75-240gms)	Size Distn: 61.2% (75-240gms)
Bruise Fee: 94.98%	Bruise Free: 94.14%

**Conclusion:** This trial yield of 81 Tonnes/Ha is difficult to explain, yet all truck loads and Simplot dockets were verified. A production yield of 54 Tonnes/Ha is considered "good" in these soils and conditions, yet averaging the yields over the 2 plots, still achieved 66 Tonnes/Ha, and was considered very good.



ECTOL Protect and Grow is a growth protectant and promotant and is widely used on commercial potato crops at a rate of 20L/Ha, ECTOL STARTER is a 14.12.2+TE protected liquid fertiliser that may be planted with the seed and foliar/soil applied as split applications. The cost of these products is offset by a small modification to the preplant fertilisers.

J.H McKay (2018)