

Mechanical weed control on potato ridges

Potato ridges can be tilled intensively before crop emergence resulting in remarkable weed control efficiencies (>95%), especially if the crop canopy can smother late emerging weeds

DID YOU KNOW?
Mechanical weed control in potatoes is equal to herbicide treatment

Readiness for use: 

Efficacy: 

How it works

Rolling cultivators, weed harrows and a new machine design provides effective weed control on potato ridges

- Weed harrows and rolling cultivators uproot and cover weeds with soil
- The new Optiweeder (<https://msrplanttechnology.dk/>) uses knives that cut both sides and the top of the ridge in 2-3 cm depth. Weeds are controlled by intensive uprooting and covering with soil
- Mechanical weeding on ridges can be very intensive before crop emergence
- Gentle mechanical weed control is still possible after crop emergence in potatoes
- Mechanical weed control by weed harrowing requires 2-3 passes for effective control followed by one pass for re-establishing the ridge
- One pass with Optiweeder against weeds with 3-4 true leaves may suffice for effective control
- Optiweeder re-establishes the ridge in the same pass
- Aboveground parts of perennial weeds can be controlled by mechanical methods but resprouting usually takes place



Figure 1. Weed harrowing on potato ridges with Treffler (www.treffler.net). Photo: Bo Melander AU



Figure 2. A unit on Optiweeder treating one ridge. Video clips and photos available on: <https://msrplanttechnology.dk/optiweeder/fotos-og-video.html>. Photo: Bo Melander

Read more

pages 5 and 6 in [Advances in mechanical weed control technologies](#):

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