



*Colourful crops grown at South Lynn Farm, Newport, Shropshire.*



was recently changed so that Michael is now removed from day-to-day activities and concentrates on projects and succession planning.

For the store currently under construction, the Bubbs decided to use a turnkey option provided by Crop Systems with a project manager to resolve all aspects of the build through to handover. 'There are a lot of farmers who like to oversee it themselves but, due to the complexity of design and construction, we decided to have one person in charge so if there are any queries we know exactly who to go to.'

One of the benefits of these stores is that being considered as plant and machinery because of the integral construction they are 100% allowable for AIA (Annual Investment Allowance), Michael Bubb disclosed.

Nevertheless, he and his family used professional help to apply for the grant. 'There were lots of formalities that we had to abide by and it really assisted us to win a very competitive grant for new technology.'

It is early days in the growing calendar but Michael was very positive about crop development in May and June. 'We have good, forward crops, and it is a relief not have to do so much irrigation as we have done over the past few years, although we are now starting up.'

The only downside is blight and he notes that this area has seen worse infection than for many years. 'We are using all the tools at our disposal to prevent outbreaks where possible – and limit them if they do occur.'

John Bubb favours long-term planning, producing 80% of the crop on

contract. 'The future of potatoes is solid and growing on contracts gives us an excellent base to work from,' he commented, adding: 'We are fortunate to have separate teams – flowers and arable – plus regular and dedicated Eastern European workers, who all combine to provide maximum flexibility and effective working practices.'



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