



Pacific Pests and Pathogens - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Ginger soft rot (162)



Photo 1. Ginger rhizome with severe soft rot, *Pythium* sp. affecting the young buds and shoots.



Photo 2. Ginger with soft rot, *Pythium* sp., showing drying-up of the leaves and collapse of the plants.

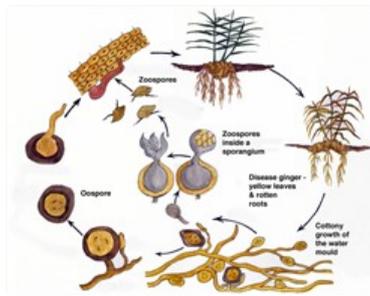


Diagram. Life-cycle of *Pythium*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. In tropics and sub-tropics. On ginger, taro, giant taro, *Xanthosoma*, beans and capsicum (see **Fact sheet no. 44**). Many kinds of seedlings are susceptible to damping-off disease in the nursery (see **Fact Sheet No. 47**).
- A water mould, an oomycete, not a fungus, living in soil on remains of crops, weeds, or as resistant spores.
- Swimming spores infect roots, buds on rhizome or the stems of shoots. Stems collapse, and leaves yellow and die. Patches of yellow develop in the field.
- Spread occurs in soil water to neighbouring plants, and long distances in “seed” used for planting.
- Cultural control: raised beds with deep ditches to drain soil and isolate disease outbreaks; clean “seed” from healthy crops; weed; 3-4-year crop rotation.
- Chemical control: metalaxyl and phosphorous acid (possibly), but unlikely to be economic.

Common Name

Soft rot, rhizome rot

Scientific Name

Pythium spp. *Pythium myriotylum* is the most serious of the species on ginger.

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Photo 1 Robert Fullerton, Plant & Food Research, Auckland, New Zealand.

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests and Pathogens*
The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

