



Pacific Pests and Pathogens - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Sweetpotato scurf (260)



Photo 1. Dark grey patches on the surface of sweetpotato storage roots caused by scurf, *Monilochaetes infuscans*.



Photo 2. Scurf, *Monilochaetes infuscans*, symptoms on variety Beauregard.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On sweetpotato and wild *Ipomoea* (morning glory). The disease lowers quality, not yield of storage roots.
- Grey fungal spots and patches (purplish-black on orange-fleshed types), merging, but superficial over storage roots. Spots on stems and leaves.
- Disease more in wet soils with high organic matter.
- Spread occurs on infected cuttings.
- Cultural control: 2-3-year crop rotation; weed; disease-free cuttings; land free from the fungus; do not add organic manures to soil where scurf occurs; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Sweetpotato scurf

Scientific Name

Monilochaetes infuscans

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Information from CABI (2015) Crop Protection Compendium *Monilochaetes infuscans* (scurf of sweet potato). (www.cabi.org/cpc).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests and Pathogens*

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Australian Government
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