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.
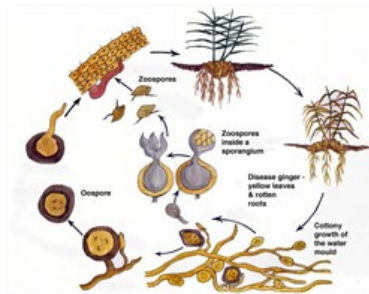

Diagram. Life-cycle of *Pythium*.

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.

This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.