

# Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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## Tomato bacterial wilt (146)



Photo 1. Capsicum with bacterial wilt, *Ralstonia* solanacearum, showing wilt, leaf fall and dieback, rather than a sudden wilt.



Photo 2. Tomato with bacterial wilt, Ralstonia solanacearum, showing sudden wilt of leaves over entire plant.



Photo 3. Potato with bacterial wilt, *Ralstonia* solanacearum, showing sudden wilt of leaves.



Photo 4. Eggplant with bacterial wilt, *Ralstonia* solanacearum, showing sudden wilt of the leaves.

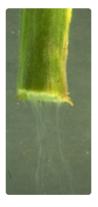


Photo 5. Cut end of tomato stem placed in water to show bacterial streaming of *Ralstonia solanacearum*.

## **Summary**

Wordlwide distribution. In tropics and sub-tropics. On more than 200 hosts in more than 30 plant
families. Several races. Race 1 infects eggplant, capsicum, chilli, potato, tomato and tobacco, and other families. An important
disease.

- High temperature and rain favours disease. Bacteria block the water-conducting tubes causing a wilt.
- Place cut stem in water to see "streaming".
- Cultural control: avoid infested land; use 4-year rotation, with maize, soybean, brassicas, rice; plant on ridges/raised beds to improve drainage; remove wilted plants immediately; remove soil from shoes, machinery, and tools; graft tomato onto relatively bacterial wilt-resistant eggplant; use resistant varieties.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

### **Common Name**

Bacterial wilt, bacterial wilt of potato, bacterial wilt of Solanaceous crops

### Scientific Name

Ralstonia solanacearum. There are a number of races.

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Information (and Photo 1) from Gerlach WWP (1988) Plant diseases of Western Samoa. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Gmbh, Germany; and information (and Photo 5) Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia (2010) Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing. Photo 3 Anare Caucau, Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji. Photo 4 Mike Furlong, University of Queensland, Brisbane.

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