



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Tomato Phytophthora root & fruit rot (157)

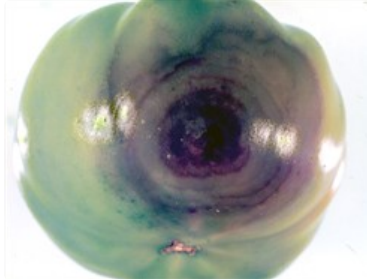


Photo 1. Grey-green rot on tomato caused by buckeye or Phytophthora root and fruit rot, showing the broad dark rings typically caused by this water mould.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On tomato, passionfruit, *bele* (Fiji). Note, that the oomycete (the water mould is not a fungus) causes a similar disease on capsicum, citrus, papaya, pineapple and tobacco.
- Roots and lower stems are attacked and plants wilt. Low-hanging fruit show greyish-green rots; at first, the skin stays firm; later, soft rots develop.
- Spread occurs in rain splash, surface water, and long distance in soil on machinery, tools, and shoes.
- Cultural control: avoid poor soil drainage; plant on ridges or raised beds; use mulches; remove infected fruit; use a 4-year crop rotation.
- Chemical control: copper, chlorothalonil, or mancozeb (protectants), metalaxyl (systemic). Spray when fruit third of final size.

Common Name

Phytophthora root & fruit rot, buckeye rot

Scientific Name

Phytophthora nicotianae; previously, *Phytophthora parasitica* var. *nicotianae*

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Information from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany; and (with Photo 1) *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing.

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

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