

Potato common scab (293)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On members of several plant families, potato, radish, parsnip; most important on potato. A cosmetic disease.
- Appearance affects market quality, but not yield.
- A soilborne bacterium causes corky pits, sometimes deep and joining together, up to 10 cm. Survives a long time in soil. Spread on tubers for planting.
- Cultural control: healthy seed; avoid organic matter; remove volunteers; clean machinery, shoes, etc., to prevent spread to scab-free fields; 3-4-year crop rotation; collect and destroy infected tubers at harvest; avoid livestock going to fields after feeding on diseased tubers.
- Chemical control: treat seed with captan or mancozeb



Photo 1. Common scab on potato, *Streptomyces scabiei*.

Common Name

Common scab of potato

Scientific Name

Streptomyces scabiei; previously, *Streptomyces scabies*.

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Information from *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, et al. CSIRO Publishing; and Common scab (undated) Common scab. Potato Extension North Dakota State University. (<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/potatoextension/common-scab>); and from Wharton O (2015) Potato diseases: Common scab of potato (E2990). MSU Extension. Michigan state University. (https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/potato_diseases_common_scab_of_potato_e2990). Photo 1 RW Samson, Purdue University, Bugwood.org.

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