

## Potato late blight (265)

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On potato, tomato and relatives, and weeds. An important disease.
- Irregular patches of rot on leaves; white cottony growth with spores on undersides. Leaves yellow, shrivel and fall. Tubers rot. Spread in wind and rain and in "seed".
- Cultural control: certified seed; remove volunteers; drainage; 2-3-year crop rotation; spacing to aid air movement; drip irrigation; limit amount of N; early tolerant varieties, avoid cull piles; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: chlorothalonil, mancozeb, or copper; alternate with, e.g., dimethomorph, metalaxyl, cymoxanil, or strobilurins. Phosphorus acid either alone or with chlorothalonil.

### Common Name

Potato late blight

### Scientific Name

*Phytophthora infestans*



Photo 1. Symptoms of late blight on potato, *Phytophthora infestans*.



Photo 2. Underside of potato leaf with spot caused by late blight, *Phytophthora infestans*. Note spores form on the margin of the spot.

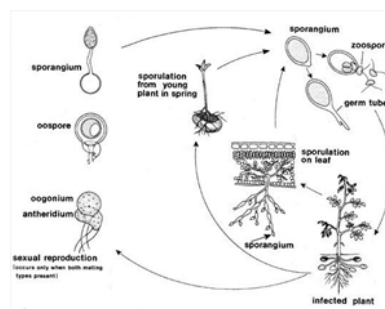


Diagram. Life cycle of late blight, *Phytophthora infestans*.



Photo 3. Brownish-reddish rots in a potato tuber caused by late blight, *Phytophthora infestans*.

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Information from CABI (2015) *Phytophthora infestans* (Phytophthora blight) Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/40970>); and information (and Diagram) from Schumann G, D'Arcy CJ (2000) *Late blight of potato and tomato*. The Plant Health Instructor. DOI: 10.1094/PHI-I-2000-0724-01. Updated 2005. Photo 2 Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 Agriculture Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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