Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Sweetpotato scurf (260)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On sweepotato and wild *Ipomoea* (morning glory). The disease lowers quality, not yield of storage roots.
- Grey fungal spots and patches (purplish-black on orange-fleshed types), merging, but superficial over storage roots. Spots on stems and leaves.
- Disease more in wet soils with high organic matter.
- Spread occurs on infected cuttings.
- Cultural control: 2-3-year crop rotation; weed; disease-free cuttings; land free from the fungus; do not add organic manures to soil where scurf occurs; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Photo 1. Dark grey patches on the surface of sweerpotato storage roots caused by scurf, *Monilochaetes infuscans*.

Photo 2. Scurf, *Monilochaetes infuscans*, symptoms on variety *Beauregard*.

Common Name

Sweetpotato scurf

Scientific Name

Monilochaetes infuscans

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Information from CABI (2015) Monilochaetes infuscans (scurf of sweet potato). Crop Protection Compendium. (https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/34723); and *Monilochaetes infuscans* (MNLCIN). EPPO Global Database. (https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MNLCIN); and from Ekman J, Lovatt J (2015) Pests, Diseases and Disorders of Sweetpotato: A Field Identification Guide. (https://www.soilwealth.com.au/imagesDB/news/Sweet-Potato-Pest-and-Disease-Guide.pdf).

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