

Chinese cabbage stalk rot (101)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. In wet tropics and sub-tropics. On Chinese cabbage, and many other plants, e.g., head cabbage (slimy brown soft rots), capsicum, carrot, celery, cucumber, lettuce (**see Fact Sheet no. 289**), and potato (**see Fact Sheet no. 296**). An important bacterial disease.
- Infection occurs through wounds made by insects, at transplanting or when weeding. Plants collapse, and bacteria enter the soil and are spread by rain splash.
- Cultural control: avoid soil with history of disease; use 1-year crop rotation, or allow last crop to decompose before replanting; use raised beds to improve drainage; space plants widely allowing wind to dry leaves; mulch to prevent rain splash; weed with care; remove plants with early sign of disease; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Basal stem rot

Scientific Name

Pectobacterium carotovorum subsp. *carotovorum*; previously, *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *carotovora*, and *Erwinia aroideae*. Other bacteria species may also be present in the soft rots.

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Information from (CABI (2019) *Pectobacterium carotovorum* subsp. *carotovorum* (bacterial root rot of sweet potato). (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/21913>); and from Shaw DE (1984) *Microorganisms in Papua New Guinea*. Research Bulletin No. 33. Department of Primary Industry, Port Moresby. Photo 3 Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, DAF Collection, Queensland, Australia.

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Photo 1. Basal stem rot on Chinese cabbage, caused by *Erwinia/Pseudomonas* bacteria.



Photo 2. Basal stem rot caused by *Erwinia/Pseudomonas* bacteria occurs often in small patches, perhaps indicating spread between adjacent plants.



Photo 3. Bacterial rot of head cabbage caused by *Erwinia/Pseudomonas* spp.

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