Potato Late Blight

See also: http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm

Foliar Late Blight

Leaf infections show areas of dead or dying tissue surrounded by a pale halo. Lesions are not delimited by leaf veins. Also, note the whitish sporulation of the pathogen around the dead tissue.

Stems are also infected, and show typical sporulation at high humidity and moderate temperature.

Field infections can start from infected seed or sprouts from volunteer plants.

Management

1. Prevention is key
2. Manage volunteer potatoes and cull piles
3. Plant healthy seed
4. Use a seed treatment containing mancozeb or other preventive fungicide
5. Treat with foliar fungicides according to recommendations of WSU
   (for eastern Washington, access the lateblight information line at: 800-984-7400)
6. Monitor fields carefully for late blight infections, especially early in season
7. Avoid planting potatoes in ground that is expected to be excessively wet,
   such as pivot centers and pivot overlaps

Washington State Potato Commission (Phone: 509-765-8845)

Potato Late Blight

See also: http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm

Tuber Late Blight

Tuber infection begins superficially, but can invade entire tuber. Sporulation can occur on cut or uncut tubers.

Management

1. Prevention is key
2. Harvest during dry weather
3. Tuber temperatures going into storage should be less than 68 F
4. Mancozeb and metiram fungicides on the soil surface late season may help prevent tuber infection
5. Foliar applications of phosphorous acid at harvest and in storage can reduce late blight tuber rot
6. Late blight infection often leads to other kinds of tuber rots in storage -- it is best to NOT STORE late blight infected potatoes, and there are no chemical treatments that will cure an infected pile of potatoes

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General Information

Causal Agent: *Phytophthora infestans*
Biology: Pathogen of potato and a few related plants; infection encouraged by humid and wet conditions
Dispersal: Sporangia move in the wind; zoospores in water
Fungicide resistance: *P. infestans* is well-known to become resistant to site-specific fungicidesused against it. Fungicides should be rotated frequently to prevent resistance. See: http://www.potatoes.com/pdfs/FungicidesPressReduced.pdf

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