

# Pythium Leak



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



- \*Occurs wherever potatoes are grown.
- \*This pathogen only enters through wounds.
- \*There is usually a distinct line between healthy and diseased tissue.
- \*Infected tissue is a smoky grey color.
- \*When squeezed, infected tubers produce a dark watery liquid.
- \*Following exposure to air, infected tissue changes from grey to brown, then black.
- \*In storage, infected tubers are sometimes reduced to empty shells.

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## Management

1. Crop rotation and destruction of diseased tubers are important.
2. Some fungicides applied at planting or during the growing season can reduce losses caused by *Pythium* leak.
3. Harvest with pulp temperatures between 45 and 65 degree F.
4. Minimize mechanical injury to tubers during harvest and handling.
5. In storage, encourage maximum suberization and wound periderm formation; do not allow free water on tubers.

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## General Information

**Causal agent:** *Pythium ultimum* and sometimes other *Pythium* species.

**Biology:** Wide host range including many crops. Infection of tubers occurs at wounds.

**Dispersal:** Infection can spread from tuber to tuber during harvest and handling. Infected seed can also spread the pathogen.

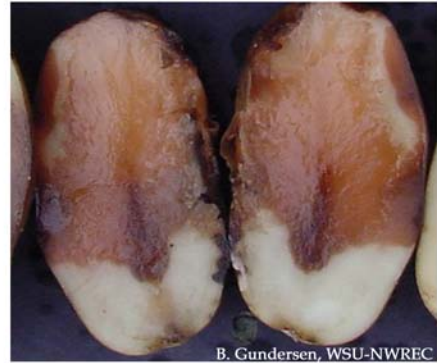
**Fungicide resistance:** *Pythium* has begun to demonstrate resistance to fungicides.

See: <http://www.potatoes.com/pdfs/FungicidesPressReduced.pdf>

# Potato Pink Rot



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



- \*Symptoms often begin at the stolon end of the tuber.
- \*Damage is sometimes bordered by a dark line visible on outside of tuber.
- \*Recently infected tissue turns pink, and then black, when exposed to air.
- \*Infections in storage may cause an ammonia-like smell.

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## Management

1. Plant in well-drained fields without a history of the disease.
2. Avoid excessive irrigation late in the growing season, and do not plant in areas of fields expected to become excessively wet.
3. Avoid wounding during harvest and transfer to storage.
4. Harvest storage crops in cool weather and with cooler pulp temperatures.
5. Sort infected tubers at harvest, and process or ship affected lots promptly.
6. Some fungicides are active against pink rot, but take care to avoid encouraging fungicide resistance.

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## General Information

**Causal agent:** *Phytophthora erythroseptica*

**Biology:** Pathogen of potato and many other plants; present in many soils worldwide; tuber infection and decay is worst in warm and excessively wet soils.

**Dispersal:** Infection can spread from tuber to tuber during harvest and handling. Infected seed can also spread the disease.

**Fungicide resistance:** *P. erythroseptica* has begun to demonstrate resistance to fungicides. Fungicides should be rotated frequently to prevent resistance.

See: <http://www.potatoes.com/pdfs/FungicidesPressReduced.pdf>

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