

Biosecurity Pest Fact Sheets

Potato leafhopper (*Empoasca fabae*)



Image Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

Adults have wings, are pale, yellowish green, slightly wedge-shaped, about 3 mm long. The nymphs look similar to the adults except that they are smaller, wingless, and paler green.

Colorado beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*)



Image: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

The adults are 9 – 12mm long, with a yellowish-orange body and characteristic cream and black stripes running down their backs. The larvae are crimson in the early instars with black legs and two rows of black spots on the sides of their body. Eggs are bright yellow-oranges and are shaped like rugby balls, they are laid in clusters of 20-45 eggs.

Potato wart (*Synchytrium endobioticum*)



Image: Plant and Environment Laboratory, Biosecurity NZ, Lincoln

The warts (galls) range from barely visible no larger than a pinhead to large, cauliflower-like protrusions. Below ground galls are white to brown, turning black as they decay. These galls appear at stem bases, stolon tips and tuber eyes. They may not be evident until harvest-time.

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Potato ring rot (*Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus*)



Image by Central Science Laboratory,
Harpenden , British Crown,
Bugwood.org

Symptoms include wilting and yellowing of the leaf, and markings which later turn brown and appear 'burned.' In the later stages of the disease, lower leaves and stems may die and leaf margins become brittle. Tubers rot from the inside. Infected tubers exude a creamy, odourless bacterial ooze (exudate) when squeezed and tuber skins can crack under heavy infection levels.

Blackleg of potato (*Dickeya solani* formerly *Erwinia chrysanthemi*)



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Infected tubers produce a soft, brownish-white rot. The affected area is bordered by a dark margin. A distinctive fishy smell is produced. Disease symptoms can be confused with other blackleg pathogens brown rot potato ring rot.