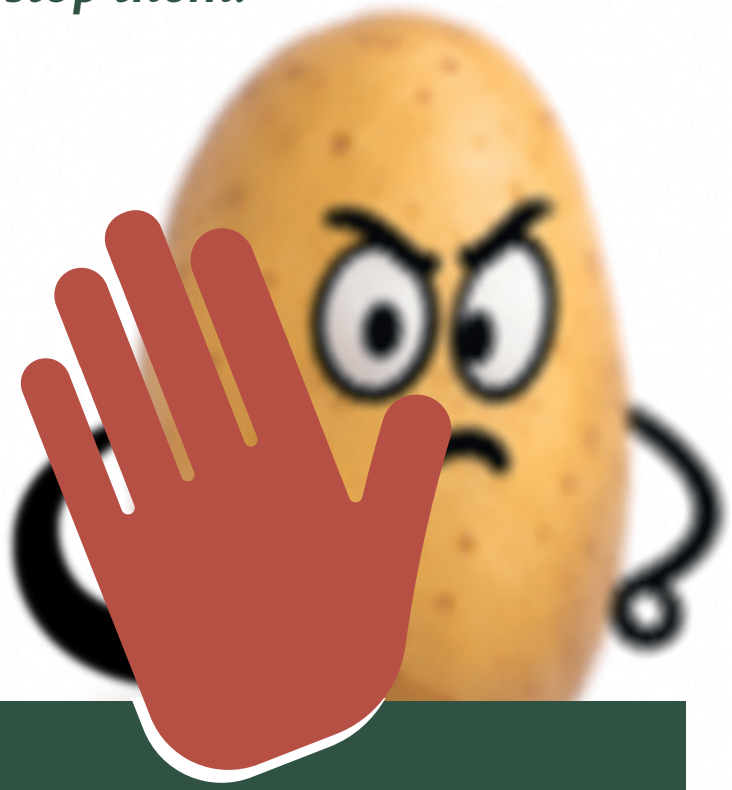
- **Black dot**
- **Silver scurf**
- **Dry rot**

know them, spot them, stop them.



Once potatoes leave the field, a new set of risks begins. Black dot, silver scurf and dry rot are fungal diseases that affect tubers in storage. Find out what they are, how they spread, and which measures growers and storekeepers can take to limit their impact.

Learn more and engage with the project:

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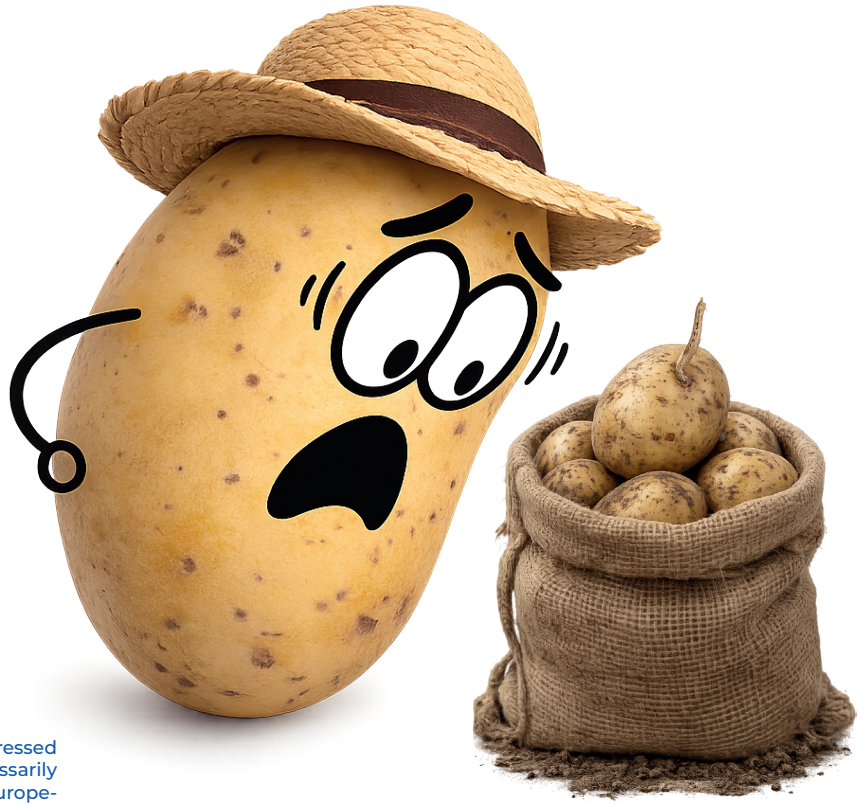
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Tiny Pests, Big Losses

Post-Harvest Threats

PATAFEST



Black dot

What is it?
A potato tuber blemish caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum coccodes*. While it usually doesn't reduce yields, it can cause significant economic losses as it makes washed and pre-packed potatoes less visually appealing.

Which crops are affected?
The same fungus can also infect tomatoes, causing anthracnose, and other solanaceous plants, including some weeds and related crops (pumpkin, carrot, celery, garlic, onion, spinach and broccoli).

How is it transmitted?
By planting infected seed potatoes in clean soil, or healthy seed potatoes in soil that already contains the fungus. It spreads mainly through soil and infected plant material, not through insects or wind.

Damage
•Brown or grey patches with tiny black dots develop on the skin; damage worsens during storage.
•Can weaken stems, roots and stolons; may cause early senescence.
•On red-skinned potatoes it may be confused with silver scurf.
•Reduces visual quality and lowers market value.

Control measures
•Use healthy seed potatoes
•Select less susceptible varieties
•Practice long crop rotation
•Control host weeds
•Apply fungicides at the right time
•Maintain good storage ventilation, temperature and humidity
•Clean equipment and tools between fields

Silver scurf

What is it?
A potato tuber blemish caused by the fungus *Helminthosporium solani*. It usually doesn't reduce the number of potatoes grown, but it can lower their quality, especially for washed or pre-packed potatoes.

Which crops are affected?
Silver scurf mainly affects potatoes. It can sometimes be confused with black dot, but the two diseases are caused by different fungi with different symptoms.

How is it transmitted?
•From infected seed potatoes planted in clean soil
•From spores already present in the soil
•From spores remaining in storage from previous crops

Damage
Infected tubers develop silvery-grey patches that can merge into larger areas; the skin becomes weakened, prone to scuffing, and can wrinkle during storage.

Control measures
•Use healthy seed potatoes
•Select less susceptible varieties
•Practice long crop rotation
•Take potatoes out of the field as soon as mature; don't leave them in the soil
•Apply fungicides as seed treatment, at planting, or post-harvest
•Dry tubers quickly after lifting
•Maintain good storage conditions; avoid storing infected batches with others
•Clean and disinfect storage areas and equipment

Dry rot

What is it?
A fungal disease caused by several species of Fusarium. It is one of the most important causes of tuber decay, especially after harvest and during storage. It typically shows sunken, wrinkled, dry brown lesions on the tuber surface; internally, cavities with white fungal growth may form. Unlike bacterial rots, it does not produce soft, watery decay.

Which crops are affected?
Mainly potatoes.

Transmission and vectors
Dry rot spreads through infected seed tubers planted in the field and through soil containing Fusarium spores from previous crops. Wounds created during harvest, grading, storage or seed cutting provide entry points for the fungus, as do storage surfaces carrying spores.

Damage
•Dry, sunken, brown or black rot areas develop on tubers
•Internal tissue turns brown and dry, sometimes in a star-shaped pattern
•Infected potatoes are more likely to shrink, lose weight and decay further in storage
•Reduces market value and leads to significant post-harvest losses

Control measures
•Use clean seed; avoid seed with visible wounds
•Minimise wounding when handling tubers
•Fungicide treatments of seed tubers
•Harvest at the right time; avoid overmature tubers
•Cure freshly harvested potatoes in a warm, humid environment
•Keep proper storage temperature and humidity; keep storage clean
•Crop rotation