



Dickeya dianthicola

Dickeya dianthicola is a serious bacteria that causes soft rot and blackleg in potatoes and significant yield losses in potato crops. It can also infect other crops such as globe artichoke and chicory, and some species of flowers and bulbs.

Farm biosecurity is essential

Symptoms in potato plants and tubers

- Poor emergence due to rotting potato seed tubers.
- Slimy, wet, black stems extending upwards from the rotting tuber.
- Tubers are macerated and have a tapioca-like appearance.
- Rapid wilting and blanking (missing plants).
- Can be present without causing symptoms.
- Symptoms develop after hot weather, when plants are stressed.
- Overseas data has indicated significant yield losses in potato crops.

How is this different from other blackleg and soft rot diseases?

There are other pathogens present in Australia that cause similar symptoms. However, *Dickeya dianthicola* is:

- More aggressive.
- Causes disease at lower infection levels.
- Will develop after hot weather – not following wet growing conditions.
- Does not have the typical, pungent smell associated with other blackleg diseases.
- Less able to survive in soil and other environments than typical blackleg.

How to prevent spread

It is reported that the main source for infection is latently infected seed tubers.

On-farm biosecurity practices, such as good farm hygiene and early reporting of suspicious symptoms is the most effective protection against all pests and diseases.

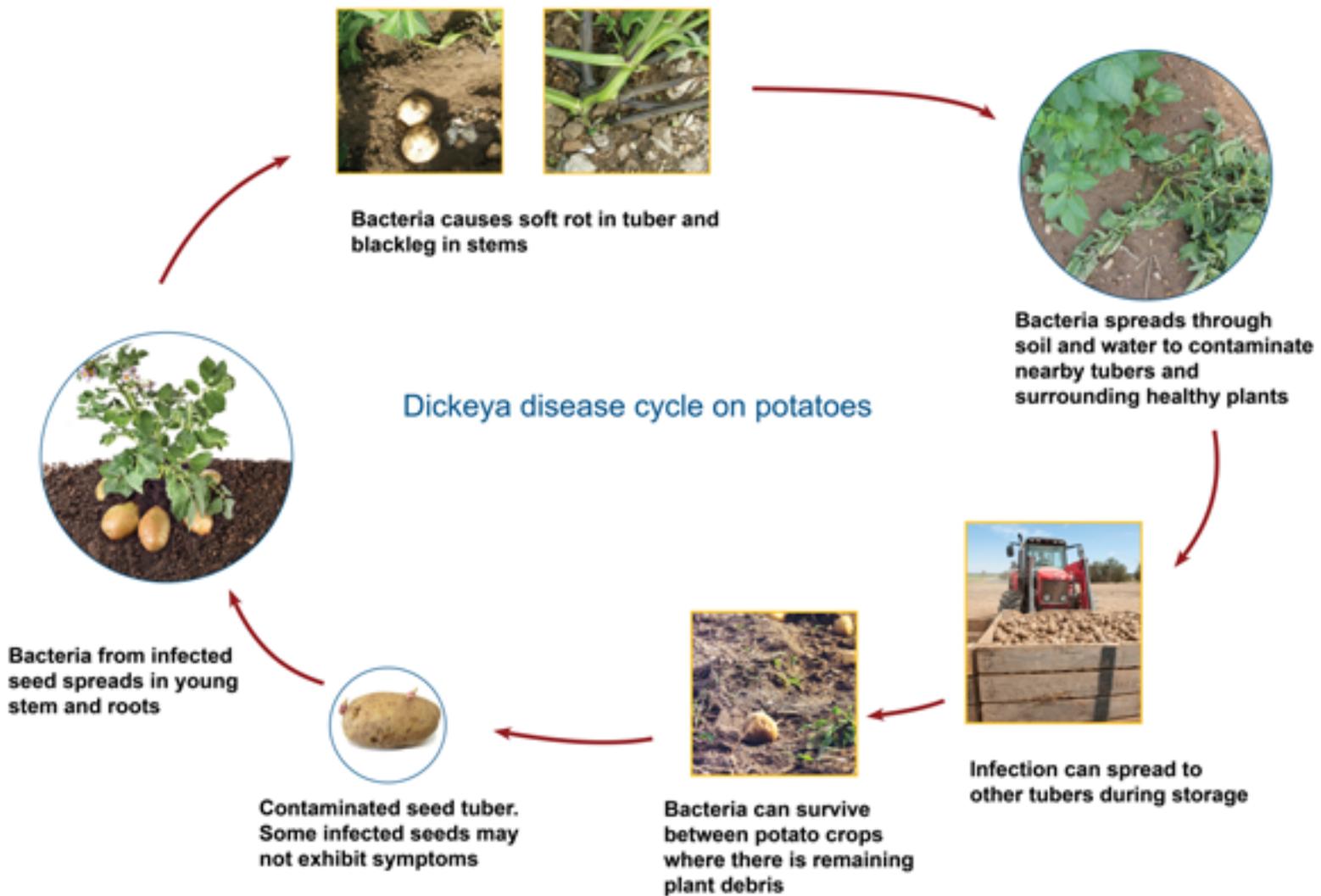
For more information go to:

farmbiosecurity.com.au

Left: infected potato plant and tuber. Notice stems affected with blackleg stemming upwards from the rotting tuber.



Dickeya dianthicola in potatoes



Reporting options

- Call the Pest and Disease Information Service on 1800 084 881 to report any suspected cases of *Dickeya dianthicola*, or
- Email photos with your name, address and mobile number to info@agric.wa.gov.au, or
- Report suspect pests or diseases via the MyPestGuide™ Reporter app from the Google Play or App Store.



Photo credits: Noah Rosenzweig, Luke Steere, Saltanat Mambetova and Chris Long, Michigan State University. Dr Steven B. Johnson, Ph.D. University of Maine Cooperative Extension

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