



## Destruction and disposal guidelines

### *Dickeya dianthicola*

All places where *Dickeya dianthicola* infected crops have been grown or destroyed, and all materials that have come into contact with these crops and places, should be treated as contaminated.

Infected crops, and vehicles, equipment and in-field risk items, such as plastic mulch and stakes, should be destroyed, disposed of or decontaminated according to the guidelines below.



Each of the below methods has inherent risks that need to be considered in consultation with the grower.

#### Burial

- Spray infected crops with herbicide. Prevent entry into the cropping area until all plants are dead.
- Bury dead plant material in a non-cropping area. Material should be covered by at least 30cm of soil so that it will not be unearthed by animals.
- Burial site should be well away from water courses or known areas of overland water flow.
- Burial sites should be recorded on farm maps, and referred to when soil disturbance is required.
- Take measures to prevent 'escape' of material when moving plants to a waste recycling facility.

#### Burning

- Burning is preferred for properties where there is a potential high water table or water movement through the soil.
- A permit may be required.
- Be aware of material possibly escaping during the process through updrafts.
- Soil, preferably with high amounts of host organic matter, can be heaped over the burning site to assist in virus break down.

*Dickeya dianthicola* does not survive long in soil without a host. Although bacteria can survive between potato crops in soil when there is remaining plant debris or when volunteer potatoes are present.

#### Decontamination

- Decontaminate machinery, equipment and vehicles.
- Decontaminate high risk material such as plastic, mulch, drip irrigation lines, stakes and string that cannot be buried or burnt.
- Remove plant material using high pressure water or scrubbing.
- Disinfect using Virkon S, or a 1% bleach (available chlorine) solution in a designated wash down area.
- Record details of each clean down and decontamination as appropriate in machinery log books.

**For more information**  
refer to *Dickeya dianthicola*  
decontamination guidelines  
available from

[agric.wa.gov.au/ddianthicola](http://agric.wa.gov.au/ddianthicola)

#### Important disclaimer

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