

Soft rot on vegetables

Dickeya spp., *Erwinia* spp., *Pseudomonas* spp., spp., *Bacillus* spp., *Clostridium* spp.



Soft rot of cabbage (Nilanka Herath, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka)



Tuber infection of potato (Public Domain - ex. SASA ©Crown Copyright)



Soft rot on carrot (Gerald Holmes, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org)

| Prevention | Monitoring | Direct Control |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate nurseries away from production fields and transplant to well drained soils • Control insect pests which can cause damage (e.g. thrips, leaf hoppers, cutworms), providing entry points for the bacteria. Practice tillage before planting to expose insect pupae to natural enemies to reduce populations • Ensure that plants are spaced wide enough so that water can easily evaporate off the leaves • Fields should not be worked while plants are wet to avoid spreading the disease • Maintain optimal levels of fertilization to grow strong crops which are resilient to bacterial soft rot • Avoid overhead irrigation, particularly in the evening when it's cooler, to prevent leaves being wet for a long period of time • Use ground irrigation if required, starting from non-infected parts of the field to prevent bacterial disease spread from infected areas • Avoid injuries to plants when working to prevent bacteria from being able to easily enter the plant • Clean farming tools and machinery with 10% bleach or 70% alcohol before working in different areas of the field to prevent disease spread • Rotate with less susceptible crops such as maize, sorghum, snap beans and beets for 2-3 years after harvest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant crops: potato, carrot, tomato, cucumbers, melons, squash, pumpkins, cabbage, cauliflower, bok choy • Monitor field looking for small to large water-soaked lesions on the leaves • Affected leaf tissues turn brown, becomes soft and mushy and has a foul smell. Leaves may yellow and wilt • Look for decaying leaves, stems and roots • Consider taking action as soon as the symptoms are seen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rogue and destroy infected plants in nurseries and fields by deep burying (at least 1 m) or burning (if allowed in your area) • Destroy plant residues and volunteer crops by deep burying or burning • Harvest during dry conditions to prevent spreading the disease to other crops • Do not store any plants displaying symptoms as the disease can spread to other plants during storage • Store crop in a cool, dry place which is well aerated to suppress bacterial growth |

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.