

The spores of the fungus may persist in the soil for years, and are able to pass unharmed through the digestive tract of domestic animals, particularly horses.

Control consists in soaking the seed-potatoes for two hours in formalin, 1 pint to 30 gallons, then dry and cut.

Potatoes should not be grown for two successive years where the disease has occurred, and uncooked scabby potatoes should not be fed to horses.

#### STEM-ROT OF POTATOES.

Various names have been applied to this disease, stem-rot, rhizoctonia, potato rosette, little potato, and black-rot being some of these.

The stem of the potato at or below the surface of the ground is attacked, and sometimes completely girdled. Sometimes, but not invariably, small tubers, either singly or in bunches, appear on the stem above the injury, sometimes quite high up on the stem. The leaves of plants affected are usually smaller than normal, and yellowish in colour, in some cases taking on the rosette habit. In bad cases the plants die and the leaves wither up.

Tubers of diseased plants will be covered with small, black or dark-coloured spots, called sclerotia, which are composed of dense masses of the mycelium of the fungus. In this form the disease is carried over the winter, and plants grown from such seed are very apt to develop the disease.

To control this disease, treat as for scab.

#### DRY-ROT AND WILT DISEASE OF POTATOES.

This disease produces a wilt disease of the parts above ground, but is better known as a dry-rot of the tubers. Diseased potatoes may, to all appearances, be perfectly sound, until some time after gathered. They can be detected, however, by cutting the tuber across at the stem end, when a dark ring will be seen just under the surface. The disease may spread rapidly in storage, mould-like growths appearing on the surface, and the potato may shrink away to a fraction of its former size.

To control, reject all diseased tubers for seed purposes; avoid infected ground for planting potatoes, as the fungus lives for a considerable length of time in the soil. Some have reported good results from spraying with Bordeaux mixture for the wilt disease.

#### EARLY BLIGHT OF POTATOES.

This disease commonly occurs on both potatoes and tomatoes. Though able to establish itself on the host-plant as a true parasite under suitable conditions, plants weakened from any cause are particularly susceptible.

Well-defined circular or elliptical spots appear on the leaves and stems. They are brown in colour, concentrically marked, with pale centre and darkest border. The disease may be accompanied by a curling and drying-up of the leaves, thus causing much damage to the crop.

Spraying as for the late blight will control the disease.

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