

This organism may attack the tubers when they are only as large as a hazel nut. It only attacks the parts of the plant below ground—usually the tubers—and does not infect any other crop but potatoes.

It has been found that the presence in the soil of an excess of lime tends to favour the disease, but it has not yet been determined whether other fertilizers have a similar or opposite effect. An attack of the disease is usually more severe in a moist soil or a rainy district.

The spore-balls can retain their vitality in the soil for at least three years, but how much longer they can live in the soil has not been determined.

Experiments have shown that the spore-balls can pass through the digestive system of pigs, and afterwards infect a potato crop in the manure. Boiling diseased potatoes before feeding to live stock would prevent this.

Sound potatoes, as in the case of Common Scab, may be contaminated by the use of infected cellars, sacks, implements, etc. The same methods of disinfection should be employed as in the case of Common Scab, and the remedies suggested are the same except that a crop of turnips, mangels, etc., can take its place in the rotation as these are not affected by Powdery Scab.

So far as is known at present, all varieties of potatoes are equally susceptible to this disease.