Potato Pest Identification

Indicates very common pests

Photo by Jude Boucher, UConn
Potato Pest Identification

*Early blight:* dark spots with rings; yellow leaf tissue around spots; kill leaves; defoliates plants

Photo by Jude Boucher, UConn
**Late blight**: turns leaves black; white fuzz develops on lowers side; vines turn brown and all growth beyond lesion dies; can move down to rot tubers
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Verticillium and Fusarium wilts: internal stem discolored brown near soil line; leaves and plants wilt and die

Photo by Rob Wick, UMass
Potato Pest Identification

Rhizoctonia (black scurf): brown stem lesions; dark resting spores (sclerotia) on tubers; young plants may die

Photo by Rob Wick, UMass
Scab: bacteria cause corky lesions on tubers
**Potato Pest Identification**

**Blackleg**: stem and roots turn black and rot; plants die

Photo by Joan Allen, UConn

Photo by Amy Hatch
Potato Pest Identification

**Soft rot**: center of tuber turns soft and paste-like

Photo by Megan Haney
Potato Pest Identification

Hollow heart: center of tuber is hollow

Photo by Sister Margaret Georgina
Colorado potato beetle: yellow and black striped beetle; pink, slug-like larvae with 2 rows of black spots on sides; defoliate and kill plants
False potato beetle: yellow and black striped beetle, similar to CPB, with brown stripe down center of back; white, slug-like larvae with one row of black spots on sides; defoliate and kill plants.
Potato leaf hopper: light green, wedge-shaped bug with hypodermic-needle-style mouthparts; feeding is toxic to plants ("hopperburn"); stops sap movement; leaves turn yellow and then brown at tip and margins, plants die
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**Wireworm**: hard, brown click beetle larva, bores into tubers and stems
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Potato aphids: reddish with long “tail-pipes”; suck plant juices; produce sticky “honeydew”
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European corn borer: cream-colored or grey caterpillar with dark brown head, bores holes in stems, kills leaves and branches
Flea beetle: small dark beetle that hops like a flea; produces small pits and holes in leaves
Black (and other) **cutworms**: charcoal-grey caterpillar; hides in soil during day; cuts leaves and stems.
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Three-lined potato beetle: yellow beetle with three black lines, red thorax, head and underside; Larvae slug-like, brown or orange with black head and feces on back; makes holes in leaves, defoliates tomatillo and husk tomatoes
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Four-lined plant bug: makes multiple small round holes in leaves