

Pale potato cyst nematode

Globodera pallida



Plant Health
AUSTRALIA

EXOTIC PEST – CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE IF SUSPECTED

What crops does it affect?

Potato, tomato and eggplant.

Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Roots and tubers. Plant parts above the ground also show signs of disease due to root damage.

What should I look for?

Potato cyst nematodes are microscopic and worm-like. They feed on the roots of potato, tomato, eggplant and other plants from the Solanaceae family including night shade. The symptoms of attack by *Globodera* species are not specific. Symptoms may appear similar to water or nutrient deficiencies or wilt diseases because infested potato plants have a reduced root system. The root system also becomes abnormally branched and brownish in colour.

Growth is stunted, leaves yellow early or turn a dull colour, flowering is delayed and plants may wilt and die. During or after flowering very tiny white, yellow or brown cysts about the size of a pin head (0.5mm) might be seen on the outside of roots.

How does it spread?

Potato cyst nematode can spread on anything contaminated with infested soil including seed potatoes, potted nursery stock and packaging, soil, flower bulbs, any other unwashed root crops for consumption or processing, footwear, livestock, farming equipment and waste from potato grading operations. Potato cyst nematode can survive as cysts in the soil for up to 20 years in the absence of host species.

**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

1800 084 881

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Cysts on the outside of a heavily infected potato.

Florida Division of Plant Industry Archive, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service, Bugwood.org



Above ground damage resulting from pale potato cyst nematode infection.

Florida Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org