

Root knot nematode

Meloidogyne enterolobii (syn. *Meloidogyne mayaguensis*)



Plant Health
AUSTRALIA

EXOTIC PEST – CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE IF SUSPECTED

What crops does it affect?

Many hosts including potato, tomato, eggplant and solanaceous weeds, onions, lucerne, tobacco, cabbages, wheat and corn, although the preferred host is potato.

Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Roots and tubers.

What should I look for?

Infested plants are stunted and may wilt; leaves may yellow or display a dull colour. Affected plants have a reduced root system which is abnormally branched and brownish in colour. At flowering or later, minute white, yellow or brown spheres or cysts, about the size of a pin head (0.5mm) may be seen on the outside of roots.

Damage to the crop varies from small patches of poor growing plants to complete crop failure. Infested plants first occur in isolated patches and these become larger with each new crop if potatoes are continually grown on the infested site.

In light infestations, potato plants may show no above ground symptoms, but yield can be reduced. Light infestations can reduce tuber size, whereas heavy infestations reduce both number and size of tubers. Affected plants can occur in patches bordered by relatively healthy plants.

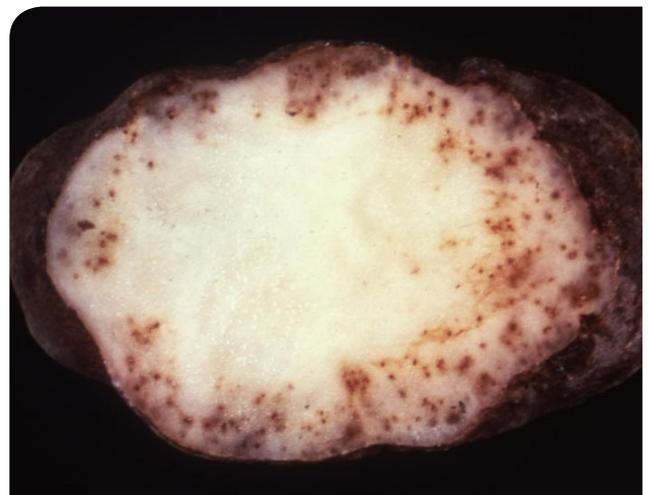
How does it spread?

As a soil-borne pest it is spread by transport of infested soil. For example, cysts can be carried in soil adhering to seed potatoes, farm machinery, implements, boots, bins and plants. Cysts can also be transported by wind and flood water.



Knot in a root hair caused by root knot nematode.

Onions Australia Poster, 2018



Nematode damage to a potato.

DAFF Archive, Bugwood.org

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

1800 084 881

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