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Review

Management of potato dry rot

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Highlights

- â€¢ Dry rot is an important postharvest fungal disease affecting potato tubers.
- â€¢ This review will describe the disease and causal agents.
- â€¢ This review will discuss management of the disease.

Abstract

Dry rot is a postharvest fungal disease affecting potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) tubers. The disease, caused by several species of *Fusarium* such as *F. solani* var. *coeruleum*, *F. sambucinum*, *F. oxysporum*, *F. avenaceum*, *F. culmorum*, results in

F. solanaceum, *F. sambucinum*, *F. oxysporum*, *F. avenaceum*, *F. caulincola*, results in significant yield losses. Some *Fusarium* species associated with the disease produce toxins, which are implicated in mycotoxicoses of humans and animals. The pathogens cannot penetrate the tuber through the lenticels or in the absence of wounds and cause infection only if the potato skin is ruptured. The seed tuber is considered as the main source of inoculum although soil infested by *Fusarium* spp. also constitutes a source of inoculum. Control of the disease, once provided by the fungicide thiabendazole, is now difficult due to the appearance of thiabendazole-resistant strains and the lack of potato cultivars with high levels of resistance to dry rot. An integrated disease management program including detection strategies, appropriate cultural practices and storage conditions (including a wound healing period) along with the use of synthetic chemical fungicides as seed tuber and/or postharvest treatment is recommended to reduce incidence and severity of dry rot. Recent studies also indicate the possibility that generally recognized as safe (GRAS) compounds and microbial antagonists could eventually be integrated into dry rot management strategies.



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Keywords

Disease management; Fungicides; *Fusarium*; Mycotoxins; Postharvest disease; Potato tuber

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