

## **GANGRENE** (*Phoma exigue* var. *foveata* & *P. exigue* var. *exigüe*)

This disease is especially problematic during the storage and handling of potatoes.

### **Disease symptoms**



Irregularly shaped, sharp-edged (thumb-mark) lesions develops in the tubers skin, usually at wounds, eyes or lenticels. Rots caused by *Phoma exigue* var. *foveata* are dark brown or purplish and those caused by *P. exigue* var. *exigüe* are smaller and black with small cavities.

### **Optimal conditions for disease**

Wet soil conditions can lead to tuber infection before harvesting. The disease normally develops during storage. Night frosts, low day temperatures (less than 12°C), wet soil conditions around harvesting time and low storage temperatures (2 - 10°C) increase gangrene incidence.

### **Other Hosts**

Cultivated and wild species of potato are as yet the only known hosts.