

CYST NEMATODES (*Globodera pallida* & *G. rostochiensis*)

Cyst nematodes are a serious disease in some potato-growing areas where they cause considerable yield reductions, and have quarantine status worldwide. It also increase incidence of infection by Bacterial- and fungal diseases like Verticillium wilt.

Disease symptoms

The disease does not cause specific aboveground symptoms. The root injury causes the plant to look to be under stress. The foliage is pale and wilting occur during hot, dry weather.



Female cyst nematodes are tiny (0.5 to 1.0mm in diameter), white or yellow pear-shaped bodies. They are found on potato roots and tubers. Initially the females are white then turn golden-yellow, then brown and become cysts which contain eggs. These eggs remain viable for many years. Large populations of nematodes cause stunting and early senescence of plants.

Optimal conditions for disease

Once cyst nematodes are well established in a area, they are almost impossible to eradicate. They flourish where soil temperatures are cool. Larvae become active at 10°C and maximum invasion of roots occurs at 16°C.

Hosts

Potatoes, tomatoes, eggplant and a number of *Solanaceae* weeds.