



Late blight on tomato leaves.



Late blight on a potato stem.



Late blight on a potato leaf.

# Late Blight Gardener Alert

## Late Blight Information for Every Gardener in Maine

*An effort of the Maine Late Blight Task Force, a cooperative effort of the University of Maine, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural resources, and the Maine Potato Board.*

### Potato and Tomato Late Blight:

- Is a community disease, as an infected garden can spread spores and affect commercial potato fields miles away.
- Can cause severe losses in commercial potato production.
- Has forced commercial potato growers out of farming. This closes a business and stresses rural families and the local economy.

### Before planting, home gardeners can:

- Use healthy tomato transplants and certified seed potatoes, NOT potatoes from a grocery store.
- Discard potato seed that has sunken blemishes on the surface with rusty, granular discoloration in the flesh underneath.

### After planting, home gardeners can:

- Allow sufficient space between plants to allow the tops of the plants to remain dry.
- Protect the growing potato and tomato plants with products containing mancozeb, maneb, or chlorothalonil. These are available at garden centers and should be applied at seven-day intervals or as directed on the label. Local potato growers can also provide advice on spray timing.
- Check the plants regularly for the disease. If symptoms appear, pull the diseased plant and place it in a plastic bag. Discard the bag without opening it. DO NOT place the diseased plant into a compost pile or leave it in the garden. Both tomato fruit and potato tubers are quickly broken down when late blight attacks them. Noninfected potato tubers or tomato fruits, even if the plant is diseased, are usable.
- Check the harvested tomato fruit and potato tubers regularly as the disease can progress quickly. Discard infected fruit, plants or tubers in a sealed plastic bag.

### Contact Information:

**University of Maine Cooperative Extension:** 1.800.287.1462

**Maine Potato Board:**  
1.800.553.5516

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine System does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, familial status, ancestry, age, disability physical or mental, genetic information, or veterans or military status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Equal Opportunity, 101 Boudreau Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5754, 207.581.1226, TTY 711 (Maine Relay System).

### Scan the QR code to access videos and more!

[extension.umaine.edu/potatoes/late-blight/late-blight-gardener-alert/](https://extension.umaine.edu/potatoes/late-blight/late-blight-gardener-alert/)

