



Potato Program

59 Houlton Road, Presque Isle, ME 04769, (207) 554-4373; Fax (207) 554-4373

Selecting Seed: Best Management Practices for Mitigating Concerns About *Dickeya dianthicola* and *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*)

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Potato seed tubers harboring *Dickeya dianthicola* and *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*) are the only confirmed source of these pathogens. At this point, there is no evidence that either of the two pathogens overwinter in the soil. The generally accepted length of survival time in the soil without a host for these pathogens is 1 week to 6 months, climate dependent. Longer survival is possible on living plant matter in the soil, *i.e.* an unharvested infected tuber. With that, the source of the inoculum, and hence the source of the disease, is infected or infested seed. Any Best Management Practices efforts on *Dickeya dianthicola* or *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*) must start with the seed.

Select seed from farms where *Dickeya dianthicola* or *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*) have not been detected and seed marketed in previous years has not been associated with *Dickeya dianthicola* or *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*).

Check North American Certified Seed Potato Health Certificates before purchasing seed and select seed that had not been increased on a farm associated with *Dickeya dianthicola* or *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*).



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Select seed with zero blackleg levels reported on the North American Certified Seed Potato Health Certificate.

Select seed that has been PCR tested by an independent laboratory and confirmed to be free of *Dickeya dianthicola* and *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*).

Select seed from farms where a zero-tolerance approach to *Dickeya dianthicola* and *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*) is being implemented.

Seed lots with field readings of blackleg present should have reports that suspect plant samples were taken for testing and found to be *Dickeya dianthicola* and *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*) free.

Avoid seed from fields where symptoms of *Dickeya dianthicola* or *Pectobacterium parmentieri* (*Pectobacterium wasabiae*) were observed, even if affected plants were rogued out.

Where possible, avoid irrigated seed crops.

Where possible, avoid planting whole-seed lots that were stripped from multiple lots.