

# LATE BLIGHT OF POTATO & TOMATO

## Primary Hosts

- ◆ Potato
- ◆ Tomato



## Secondary Hosts:

- ◆ Eggplant
- ◆ Pepper
- ◆ Petunia
- ◆ Solanaceous weeds
  - ◆ Nightshade
  - ◆ Wild tomato



Potato leaf lesion

Lesions on tomato leaves



## SYMPTOMS



Tomato & potato rot



- ◆ Dark, water-soaked lesions (spots)
- ◆ Lesions are not contained by leaf veins
- ◆ Lesions may have a yellow edge
- ◆ Lesions become brown & brittle within a couple of days
- ◆ Disease develops rapidly under warm & wet/humid conditions
- ◆ Plant foliage may die back rapidly
- ◆ Tomato fruit & potato tuber rot may have reddish-brown lesions
- ◆ Rot can penetrate the skins of tomato fruit & tubers — causes rot & discoloration of the internal flesh



Potato foliage

## HOW THE DISEASE SPREADS

- ◆ **ONLY** overwinters & survives on **LIVING** plant tissue (seed potatoes, volunteers, potato cull piles, living plants, etc.)  
\*\*NOTE: applies to Prairies
- ◆ Spreads by spores (sporangia) between plants in fields by rain or water splash or short distances in soil water
- ◆ Spores may be carried long distances (100+ km) on wind or in storm fronts
- ◆ Disease may spread from diseased to healthy tomato fruit & potato tubers in storage & between potato seed pieces

## HOW TO PREVENT / MANAGE

- ◆ Avoid introducing the disease - only plant healthy potato tubers & tomato transplants
- ◆ Scout for infection early, regularly and thoroughly
- ◆ Rigorously cull out all infected or suspect material
- ◆ Do not leave infected plant material in the open – bag, bury or compost (covered) or freeze all infected material
- ◆ Top kill or remove tops of infected potatoes to reduce risk of spread to tubers