

# Vegetable -Matters-of- Fact

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# POTATO



## Late Blight of Potatoes – New Exotic Threats

- At present, late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) is a minor disease of potatoes in Australia.
- There are new aggressive strains of the pathogen overseas which would cause a more serious problem for the Australian potato industry.

### What to look for if an exotic strain is suspected:

- Appearance of disease earlier in the season than usual
- More aggressive and pronounced symptoms
- Rapid disease development
- Disease cannot be controlled with applications of registered chemical
- Adjacent *Solanum* weeds such as black nightshade also showing symptoms

### AUSTRALIAN LATE BLIGHT SYMPTOMS



### SYMPTOMS of EXOTIC STRAINS OF LATE BLIGHT



Stem symptoms (USA) Leaf & stem symptoms (USA)



Blighted plant  
(Papua New Guinea)

Blighted crop (USA)



Tuber blight (USA)

