

## Potato Wart

*Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilberszky) Percival 1909

### Primary hosts

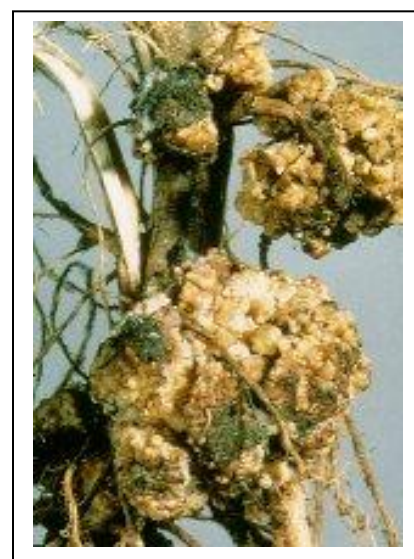
Potato

### Symptoms

Symptoms occur on any tissues other than roots, but occur most frequently on stems, stolons and tubers. Warty outgrowths of tissue may be tan, green, or brown, depending on age and location of the affected tissue.

### Disease cycle

Wart is caused by a soil borne fungus. It produces spores that are extremely persistent (up to 20-30 years). In the spring, spores germinate to infect host tissues, where new sporangia are eventually formed. Warty tissues contain the fungus, which is not systemic in the plant. As the fungus grows, the infected and surrounding plant cells swell and divide to produce the wart. The fungus is readily transmitted to new areas in soil, on tubers grown in infected soil, machinery and tools used in potato cultivation, on footwear and manure from animals that have fed on infested tubers.



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### Current geographic distribution

Not found in the US. In North America wart is present in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, Canada. Present in most countries of Western Europe; also Asia; Africa; Oceania (New Zealand), and South America (Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Falkland Islands, Peru).

### Impact in Oregon

Very high. There is no control for this disease, and its presence would impact US potato exports.