

POTATO BLACKLEG (*DICKEYA?*): WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT AN EMERGING PROBLEM

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Potato blackleg is a disease caused by different bacteria collectively known as soft rot bacteria. The bacteria have gone by different names, *Erwinia*, *Pectobacterium*, and *Dickeya*. Over the past two seasons, a more virulent form of the pathogen has emerged in the Northeast compromising potato production. It is a seed borne disease that can be managed by sanitation practices and the sourcing of clean seed. The biology of these pathogens and the management of the disease will be discussed.