

Potato XXII – 19

Treating Potatoes Entering Storage

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Fusarium dry rot is a common storage disease and can be very destructive. This disease is caused by several species of the fungus *Fusarium*. This fungus survives in soil, crop refuse, and on contaminated equipment, walls, and floors of potato storages. Since they are soil borne, tubers have the potential to carry the fungus on their surface. A wound or a bruise, is necessary for the pathogen to become established and most tuber infections occur through wounds inflicted during harvest or storage. Any conditions that reduce the rate of wound healing increase the potential for losses from *Fusarium*. Control of *Fusarium* tuber rot can be aided by harvesting only mature tubers with well-set skins and handling the tubers in such a manner as to minimize bruising. Harvest when tuber temperatures are above 45° F to reduce bruising. Pad equipment surfaces to reduce tuber injury during handling and always run equipment at capacity. Sanitation of equipment and storage areas will reduce potential losses by killing and removing spores. Fungicides applied to tuber surfaces may reduce decay, if the fungus has not developed resistance. Application equipment should provide complete coverage of each tuber with the protectant spray. To insure maximum benefits from the treatment, situate nozzles on the bin piler. Separate soil, diseased tubers and other debris prior to treatment. Avoid getting the tuber too wet, as this will predispose tubers to additional storage problems.

Product list for treating potatoes entering storage:

Product (grouped by active ingredient)	Disease	Product	Remarks
Sodium Hypochlorite			
Agclor 310	Decay causing organisms	10-15 fl oz per 100 gal water	For treating potatoes in a pit system use a concentration of 100 to 15 ppm C12.
Thiabendazole			
Decco Salt No. 19	Fusarium Tuber rot	5.67 per 2000 lb of potatoes	Seed potatoes should be treated before cutting.
Mertect 340-F	Fusarium Tuber rot	Conveyer line: 0.42 fl oz per 2000 lb of potatoes; Dipping: 0.42 fl oz per 1 gal water, dip tubers	Seed potatoes should be treated before cutting.

for 20 sec.

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