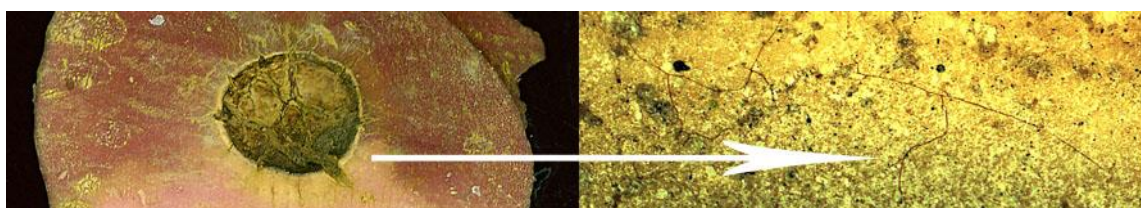


RHIZOCTONIA SOLANI

- Bottom rot of lettuce
- Crater spot of swedes
- Crater spot of celery
- Stem canker and black scurf of potato
- Damping off of lettuce, Swiss chard and brassicas
- Wire stem of brassicas (right hand image below)
- Bottom rot of cabbage /Chinese cabbage (left hand image below)
- Root rot of broad bean /peas
- Root rot and root lesion of radish

This is a common soil fungus with a wide host range that causes a number of plant diseases. *Rhizoctonia* is a naturally occurring soil inhabitant that survives in soil as a saprophyte. Several strains of *R. solani* exist and not all are able to infect all hosts.

It produces characteristically coarse, brown, right angle branching hyphae. The photograph below shows the hyphae growing on the surface of a swede infected with crater rot – you should be able to see the typically sparse strands of the fungi growing on the surface of an unwashed root just beside a crater lesion with a x10 hand lens. It doesn't produce fruiting bodies or spores.



Small, loosely aggregated clumps of mycelia function as sclerotia that enable the fungus to withstand unfavourable conditions e.g. black scurf on potato tubers. Plants can be attacked from mycelia or sclerotia. The fungus is favoured by warm (25°C), moist soil conditions but is capable of causing problems at much lower temperatures.

Label approvals for Rhizoctonia

There are a number of actives available that are effective against *Rhizoctonia*: Amistar, Amistar Top and Signum. The bio-fungicides would include T34, Trium P and Prestop.

