

# British Potato Trade Association

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Dear Member

## ***Dickeya solani***

I am writing to draw attention of Association members to a letter that the Potato Council (PCL) has issued to Scottish levy payers about a newly discovered pathogen in the *Dickeya* species - *Dickeya solani*, which produces Blackleg like symptoms in potato, and can easily be confused with Blackleg caused by *Pectobacterium atrosepticum* (previously known as *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *atroseptica*). *Dickeya solani* appears to be more aggressive and have a wider temperature range than *P. atrosepticum*.

The PCL letter covers a new Scottish Government leaflet on *Dickeya* that provides an up to date guide on *current understanding of the disease and explains the associated risks in more detail. I attach copies of both the PCL letter and the Scottish Government (SG) leaflet. The SG leaflet can also be sourced at:* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/18273/PotatoHealthControls/PotatoQuarantineDiseases>

PCL has also prepared a new section on its website about *Dickeya* that contains short videos of seminars and interviews at British Potato 2009 including that given by Dr Gerry Saddler of SASA. These can be sourced initially at [http://www.potato.org.uk/sector/seed/index.html?menu\\_pos=seed](http://www.potato.org.uk/sector/seed/index.html?menu_pos=seed) and soon with the shorter url: [www.potato.org.uk/dickeya](http://www.potato.org.uk/dickeya).

To minimise the risk of *Dickeya solani* becoming established within Scotland the Council of the Association urges BPTA members to exercise extreme care with regard to the provenance of their seed supplies intended for planting within Scotland and to consider carefully the benefits of trading only with Safe Haven Certification Scheme growers for such seed where that is possible.

Yours sincerely



Charles W Greenslade  
Secretary



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