

ERWINIA

Erwinia carotovora
subsp. *betavascularum*



photo by: E. D. Whitney



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Identification

- Erwinia is a root rot caused by a bacteria
- It is a warm weather disease found mostly in the western US
- Can be confused with rhizoctonia

Detection

- Early symptoms include black streaks running up the petioles and froth from the crowns
- Diagonal cut beets will turn pink or red when exposed to air
- Starts in the crown or petioles and rots down from the inside out
- Previously injured or weak beets are susceptible to infection
- The disease requires an infection point
- Hail or tearing from cultivation are the most common causes of an infection point

Control

- Prevent injuries to beet
- Judicious use of nitrogen
- Avoidance of throwing or splashing of soil into crowns