**Bacterial Wilt of Potato** (*Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 Biovar 2)

**ORIGIN:** Unknown.

**CURRENT DISTRIBUTION:** Identified in numerous greenhouses in 41 states on geraniums from a Guatemalan source in 2003. Eradication efforts quickly controlled the outbreak, since then thought to be eradicated. Not currently found in Illinois. Established in temperate European countries.

**SYMPTOMS:** At first may be mistaken for water stress during the heat of the day with some recovery at night. Stems begin to lose color and develop dark streaks in the vascular bundles. Bacterial ooze may leak from broken stems and eyes on the tuber. Tuber will also be discolored just below the surface. Ideal conditions for this bacteria included low soil temperatures and high moisture levels. Persists in the soil year-round. Spreads through infected soils and water runoff passing through infected soils.

**IMPORTANCE:** Race 3 Biovar 2 is a particular damaging strain of the bacteria troubling many European countries. Infected fields will show a significant decline (>75%) of crops with associated economic loss.

**HOST (RANGE):** Mostly potato plants, with some tomato plants affected as well. Geraniums and other plants in the nightshade family may also be susceptible.

**MANAGEMENT:** Fumigation and antibiotics not proven to be useful. Best practice is to remove susceptible species in a 5 to 7 year crop rotation. Good sanitation is always an important practice for greenhouse grown plants.