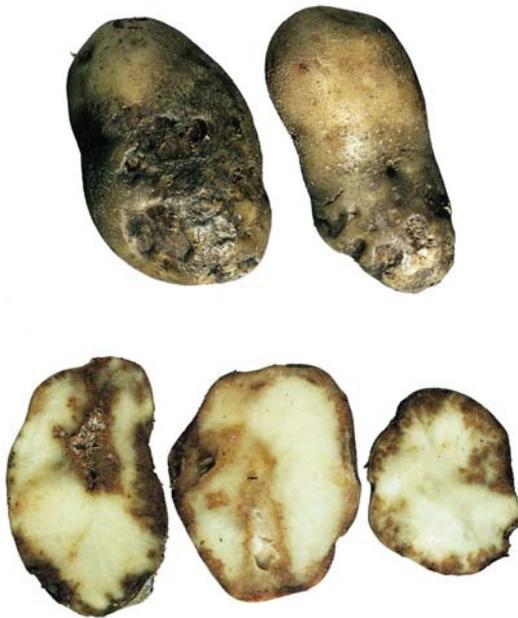


## Fight against Blight

### ISSUE 2: SEED HEALTH



Blight control does not start in the growing crop. It starts much earlier.



**A single blight infected seed tuber in every 100 tubers can produce 2 primary infection sources per hectare. In the right conditions this could start a blight outbreak in YOUR crop.**

While the potential for blight inoculum to originate from your seed is much lower than other sources, it is still significant.

Seed cutting increases the spread of blight and risk of early outbreak.

### What to ask your seed supplier to reduce your blight risk

Regular and open communication between you and your seed supplier is very important. When it comes to blight, there are several areas worth checking:

- Where your seed was grown
- What had been the blight risk in that area
- Your supplier's inspection reports for any additional comments
- Your seed on delivery. Carry out a WASH UP test (see overleaf) as soon as possible

What's more, if you don't already visit your seed supplier, why not arrange a visit this year?

### Using your own farm saved seed?

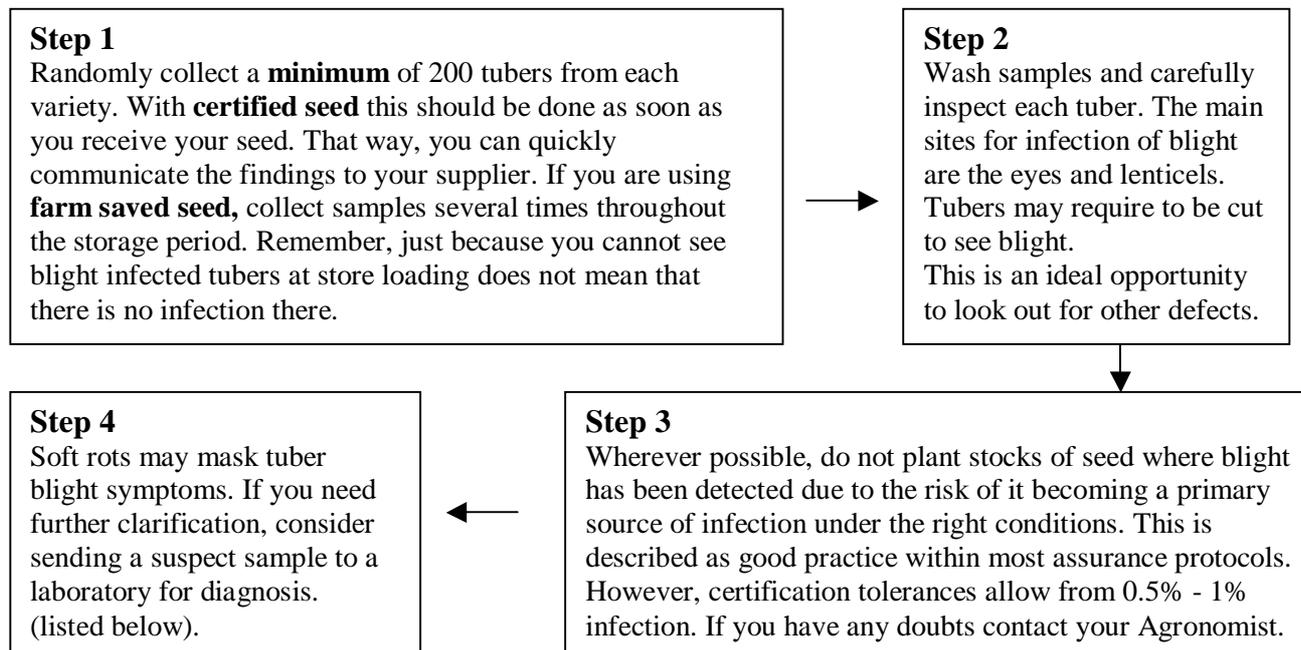
- Don't save seed from crops known to have had a blight infection
- Check last year's records for blight infection in your crops
- Carry out regular WASH UP tests (see overleaf)  
We suggest certified seed tolerances are used as a guide
- Carry out more than one test
- **Treat farm saved seed with extra caution because it has no certification and often has numerous other health risks**

### Classified seed grade tolerances for blight

Seed grade	Tolerance
VTSC	0.5%
SE, E, AA Protected Region	0.5%
SE, E, AA Unprotected region	1.0%

## Make every effort to reduce the risk from seed borne blight

Carrying out Wash Ups is simple and highly effective. Here's how:



These are some of the laboratories that offer diagnostic testing for blight:

Laboratory	Contact	Telephone number
BPC Sutton Bridge Experimental Unit	Jeff Peters	01406 351444
Cambridge University Farm	David Firman	01223 277030
CSL	Don Walker	01904 462323
SAC	Stuart Wale	01224 711213
NIAB	David Kenyon	01223 342200

### Variety resistance

Whilst all potato varieties are susceptible to tuber blight there are large differences in variety resistance. Stocks from varieties with low levels of resistance may contain more blight infection and maybe a source of infection early in the growing crop. However, these may rot down prior to emergence. Conversely tubers from varieties with a higher resistance to blight may survive longer, allowing them to develop later into the growing crop leading to a potential infection source. **Just because variety resistance is high it does not necessarily mean that there is a lower risk.**

Example of variety difference		
Variety	Resistance	
	Foliage	Tuber
Russet Burbank	3	1
King Edward	3	4
Estima	4	5
Maris Piper	4	5
Cara	6	7
Sante	7	6

**If you require any specific advice about your own situation please contact your local agronomist.**

1 = Poor resistance,  
7 = Good resistance

(Source NIAB)