

Review of national control measures relating to pests affecting the potato industry

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Background

The phytosanitary measures relating to pests affecting the potato industry are crucial to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of regulated pests in South Africa. Regulated pests affecting the potato industry are regulated in terms of the Control Measures R. 110 of 27 January 1984 as amended under the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 1983).

Regulated pests of potatoes

Plant pests may have a devastating impact on agricultural production and food security as well as trade competitiveness. Regulated pests affecting the potato industry in terms of Control Measures includes Bacterial wilt (*Ralstonia solanacearum*), Wart disease of potatoes (*Synchytricum endobioticum*) and Potato cyst nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*).



Figure 1: **Bacterial wilt** (*Ralstonia solanacearum*)

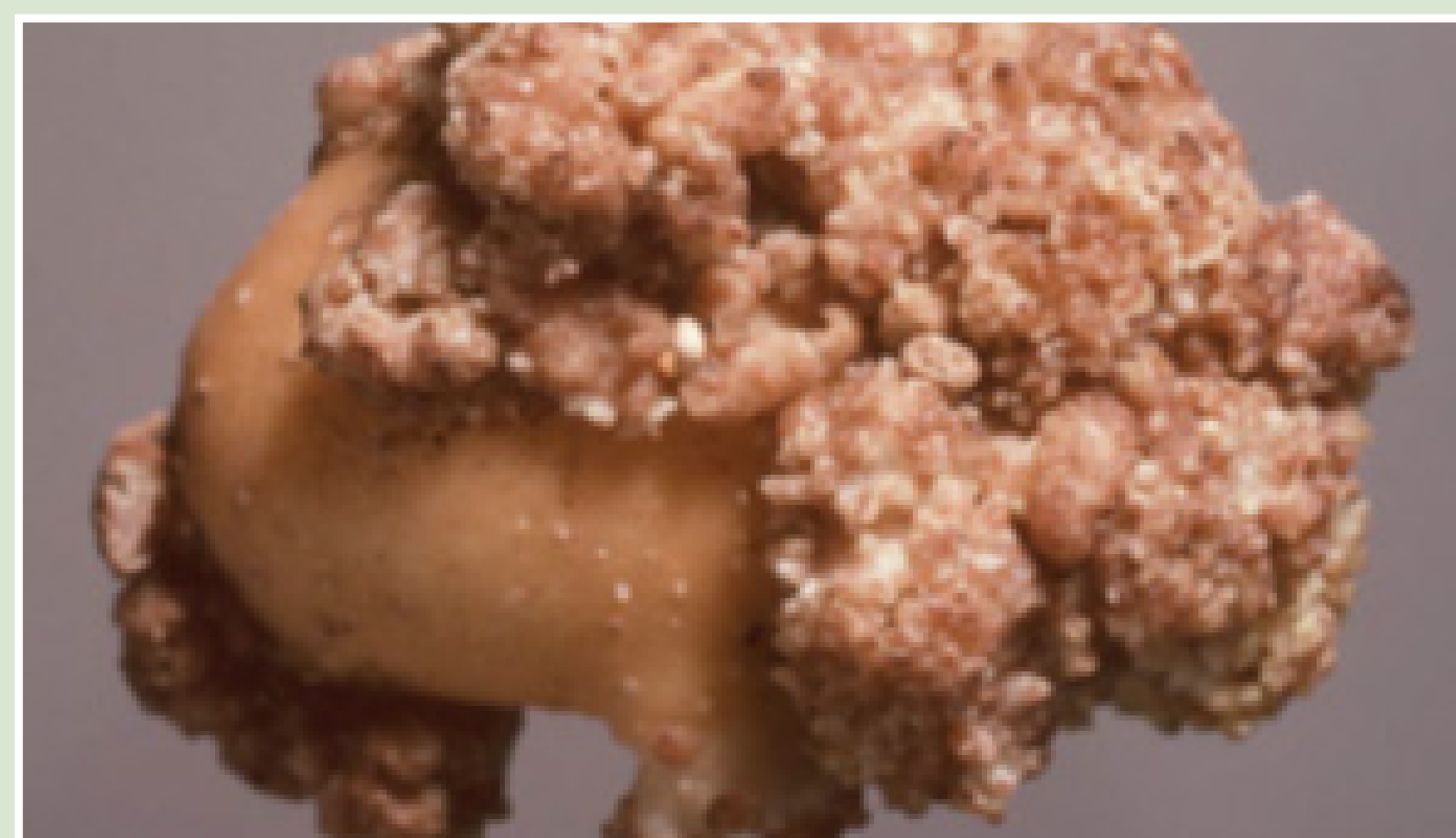


Figure 2: **Wart disease of potatoes** (*Synchytricum endobioticum*)



Figure 3: **Potato cyst nematode** (*Globodera rostochiensis*)

Review of the Control Measures R.110

The department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries together with potato industry, Agricultural Research Council and some universities held a consultative workshop to review the existing Control Measures. The aim of the review of the Control Measures R.110 is to improve the regulatory system of South Africa. The review process includes determination of the pest status in an area as well as pest categorization. The pest risk assessment was initiated to conclude on the pest categorisation of specific regulated pests and this process is ongoing.

Way forward

Upon finalisation of all review processes, the amendment of the Control Measures will be promulgated in the Government Gazette for implementation and enforcement. The Republic of South Africa has the sovereign right to adopt and apply phytosanitary measures to safeguard its territory from harmful pests in order to facilitate safe and fair trade in accordance with accepted international principles. Researchers and land users are required to notify the Department of any occurrence or suspected occurrence of regulated pests in a pest free area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Figure 1: Agricultural Research Council, Figure 2: <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/pwd.pdf>, Figure 3: <https://www.cropscience.bayer.com/en/crop-compendium/pests-diseases-weeds/pests/globodera-rostochiensis>



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