

**Problem:** Iris Bacterial Soft Rot – *Erwinia carotovora*



**Plants Affected:** Iris

**Description:** This disease causes a smelly and slimy rot of the leaves and rhizomes. Leaves often separate easily from the rhizome. Heavily infested plants may die.

Though most often associated with iris borer, environmental damage such as a hard freeze on succulent tissue can also provide an entry point for this disease.

**Recommendations:** Rhizomes that show signs of damage due to soft rot should be discarded. When dividing rhizomes from beds that have shown evidence of soft rot, disinfect the knife between cuts with a 10% bleach solution or rubbing alcohol. Replant only healthy rhizomes.

**References:**

1. [Iris Problems](#), Home, Yard and Garden Pest Newsletter, August 2, 2007, University of Illinois Extension
2. [Rotting Iris Plants](#), Home, Yard and Garden Pest Newsletter, June 5, 2009, University of Illinois Extension

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