

Problem: Growth Cracks in Potato



Plants affected: Potato

Description: This condition is not caused by an insect or disease but is caused by fluctuating soil moisture levels, uneven soil and air temperatures and rapid water uptake. This often occurs when a dry period is followed by heavy rainfall or excessive irrigation.

Growth cracks do not cause the tubers to rot but do affect attractiveness and make the tubers more difficult to peel.

Recommendations: Keep the soil evenly moist and avoid adding more fertilizer than recommended. Keeping plants evenly spaced also can help.

The potatoes are safe to eat.

References:

1. [What's Wrong with my Potato Tubers?](#), Oregon State University, EM 8948-E, page 8
2. [Tuber External Growth Defects: Deformations](#), University of Nebraska-Lincoln, CropWatch: Potato Education Guide

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