

**EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON SYMPTOM PRODUCTION IN POTATO TUBERS
BY ISOLATES OF *MACROPHOMINA PHASEOLINA***

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The pathogenic effect of 31 isolates of seed-borne *Macrophomina phaseolina* from 13 host plants and 10 locations representing 7 agro-ecological regions were assayed on potato tubers.

External symptoms induced were a blackening and killing of eyes in 7-10 days. Internally, charcoal rot as well as dry and soft rots were observed.

The development of symptoms was influenced by temperature and differences were observed between isolates. Almost all isolates from the three regions of the low country dry zone caused maximum infection at 35-40°C. With the isolates from the low country intermediate zone, low country wet zone and mid country wet zone, the temperature for maximum infection ranged from 30-40°C. No symptoms were observed at 25°C but symptoms developed when tubers held at 25°C were subjected to a temperature of 35°C.