

# Reoccurring wilt: the ute

## Have you seen these symptoms?

- The odd plant or patches of plants that wilted and suddenly died (sporadic death) with dead leaves remaining on the plant.
- Reoccurring patches of dying plants getting larger over past seasons with no explanation for plant death i.e. seasonal conditions.
- Dying plants amongst healthy plants with varying stages of plant growth affected.
- Bronzing of leaves and petioles.
- Blackening of the stem.
- Reddening of the roots and vascular tissue.
- When the stem or tap root is cut horizontally, infected tissue may have a wedge-shaped discolouration which is reddish-grey.
- Root decay i.e. if plants are pulled out of the soil, the taproot snaps due to a dry rot.



*Bronzing of leaves.*



*Affected plants wilt and die.*



*Various stages of plant growth are affected.*



*Sporadic plant death can occur with dying plants situation amongst healthy plants.*





*Wedge-shaped discolouration of diseased vascular tissue (left) and internal reddening of the tap root (right)*



*Plant death occurs rapidly from onset of symptoms (left); blackening of stem (centre); dry rot of tap root (right).*

### **If you see symptoms: collect samples to get tested.**

- Collect multiple samples representing all symptoms and stages of growth affected.
- If possible include a healthy plant or plants, as well as the diseased plant material
- Collect whole plant samples including roots:
  - Dig up plants rather than pull them out, as roots may be rotten and break off.
  - Keep samples cool after collection.
- Contact your local state pathologist for details on preferred methods for sending samples:

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### **Additional resources:**

- [The Fast Facts: Be Wilt Aware factsheet](#)
- [CottonInfo E-alert: Reoccurring Wilt, possible new cotton disease](#)
- [CottonInfo webinar: Reoccurring wilt](#)