

# BACTERIAL SOFT ROT

*Erwinia carotovora* pv. *carotovora*

Cause: *Erwinia carotovora* (Jones) Bergey et al.

Symptoms: Cells are first water-soaked, then soft, watery, and slimy gray or brown. Epidermis usually remains in contact. May have a foul odor. Diagnosis is usually complicated due to the presence of secondary pathogens.

Demographics: Worldwide

Importance: Variable, disease severity increases when fruit is damaged by hail.

Control: Careful handling of pods after harvest. Control of temperature and relative humidity in storage. Rotation with grass crops, alfalfa, and beans will reduce the bacteria population in the soil.

