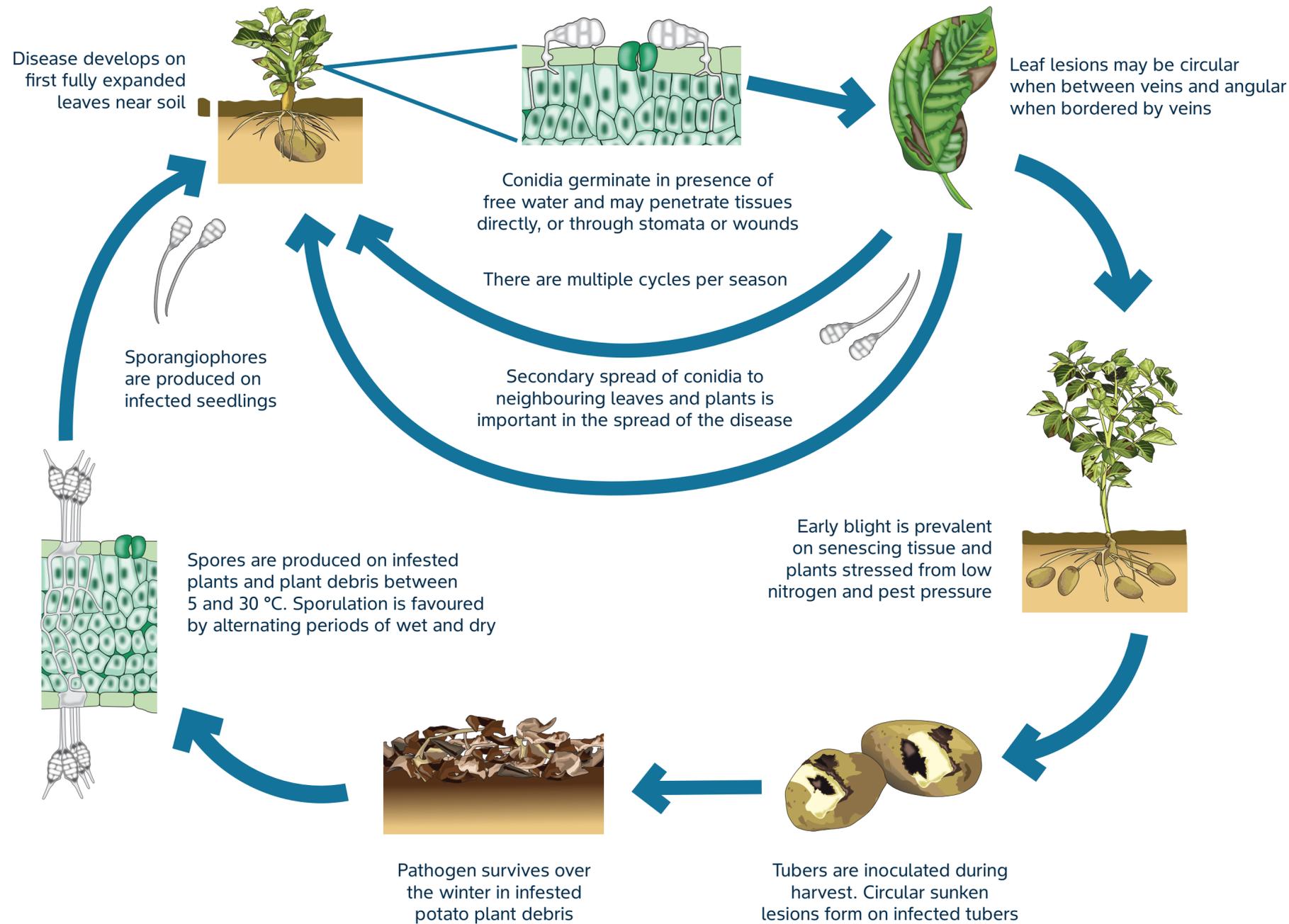


Integrated crop management – Potatoes



Disease cycle of Early Blight



Early Blight (*Alternaria solani*)

Early blight in potatoes, caused by the fungus *Alternaria solani*, is a common disease characterised by dark brown to black, circular lesions with concentric rings on the leaves. These lesions often develop a “target spot” appearance. The disease can lead to defoliation and reduced yields, especially if it occurs early in the growing season or in late-maturing crops. Blight will not survive in the soil on its own, but it will remain on diseased tubers left in the ground. The severity and speed of progression depend on factors like the potato variety, environmental conditions, and whether the pathogen reaches the tubers. If the disease is significant, removing all infected material is crucial to prevent the spread of spores, as they can survive for months to over a year in the soil and on debris.

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