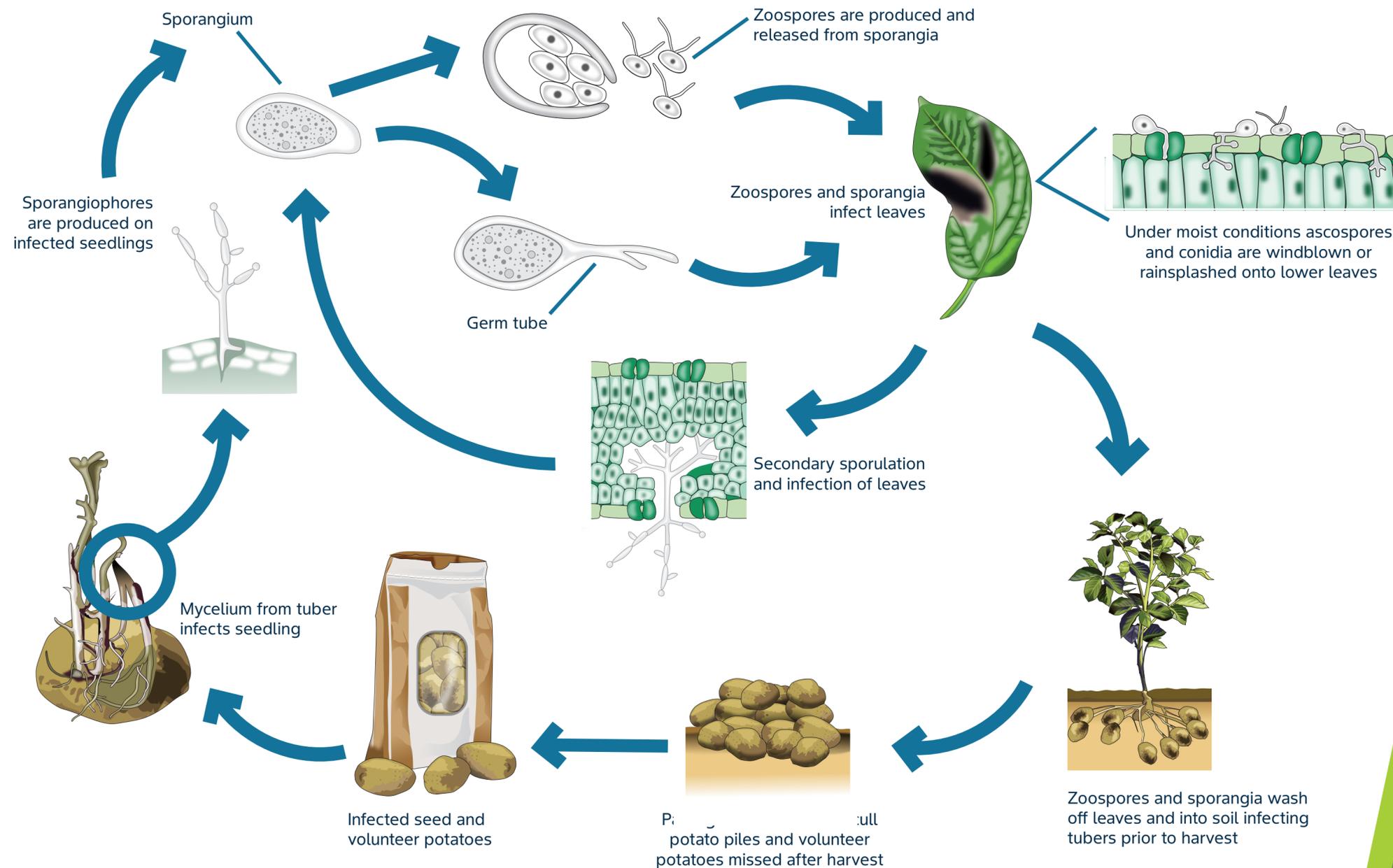


Integrated crop management – Potatoes



Disease cycle of Late Blight



Late Blight

(*Phytophthora infestans*)

Late blight is a fungus-like microorganism that causes the serious potato disease known as late blight or potato blight. It spreads rapidly through the foliage and tubers of potatoes in cool, wet weather, causing collapse and decay. Late blight can destroy potato crops in a very short time. Therefore, preventive action is required and most effective as soon as conditions become favourable for infestation. The first symptoms of late blight in the field are small, light to dark green, circular to irregular-shaped water-soaked spots. These lesions usually appear first on the lower leaves. During cool, moist weather, these lesions expand rapidly into large, dark brown or black lesions, often appearing greasy. Effective control of the disease requires implementation of an integrated disease management approach.

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