Black Leg in Canola and other Crucifers
What You Need to Know

THE FACTS:
- The WSDA Crucifer Quarantine now includes all counties of eastern WA
- Black leg has been confirmed in northeast OR grower fields and at the research station
- Lesions have been observed in ID canola and rapeseed fields; the disease has been described as ‘common’ but not severe
- Black leg has been at very low levels in some locations in WA

WHEN BUYING SEED:
- Buy ONLY tested and certified black leg-free seed
- Look for the green WSDA tag on each seed bag indicating Crucifer Quarantine compliance (including cover crop mixtures)
- Look for or ask your seed rep for MR (moderately resistant) or R (resistant) black leg rating
- Apply seed treatment (most companies already do but double check that)

AFTER EMERGENCE:
- Scout fields for any lesions on leaves and/or cankers on stems (see back for photos)
- Continue to monitor fields throughout the growing season

SCOUTING PROTOCOL to avoid spreading black leg
- Wear rubber boots
- When finished scouting/sampling a field, scrape and wash off any soil adhering to boots
- Spray boots with 70% alcohol (isopropyl alcohol works well)
- Remove boots and wear clean shoes until reaching the next field

IF BLACK LEG IS OBSERVED (current crop or past crop residue)
- Place DRY leaves and/or stems in a ziploc
- Mail (preferably overnight) or deliver samples to the WSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic, UI or OSU Plant Pathology departments
- Follow recommendations for applying fungicide ONLY if black leg is confirmed and at or above threshold levels

HARVEST and TRANSPORTATION
- Make sure combine is set properly to reduce as much seed loss as possible
- Tarp trucks and seal up rear gates and belly dumps before delivery

OTHER KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
- Control Brassica/crucifer volunteers and weeds in fields and field borders
- Rotate canola and other brassicas; grow no more than once every 3 years on the same field
- Learn how to identify black leg symptoms; be vigilant in scouting fields
Note the black dots in the leaf lesion (pycnidia) that are the fruiting bodies of the black leg fungus.

Stem canker with pycnidia in the canker.

Pycnidia of the black leg fungus on canola residue.

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