

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

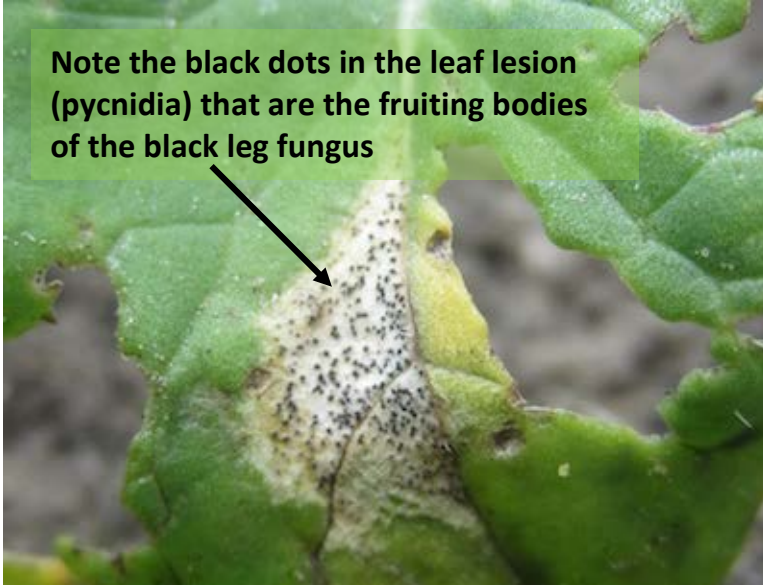
HARVEST and TRANSPORTATION

- 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



WSU contacts:

Tim Paulitz
USDA-ARS
Room 363 Johnson Hall
Pullman, WA 99164-6430
509-335-7077 | 509-592-6401

Rachel Bomberger
WSU Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinic
316 Johnson Hall
Pullman, WA 99164-6430
509-335-0619

PNW Canola Association contact:

Karen Sowers
808-283-7013

University of Idaho contacts:

Jim Davis
208-885-4266 | 208-669-0167

Kurt Schroeder

Plant Sciences Dept
Ag Sci Bldg Rm 242
Moscow, ID 83844
208-885-5020

Oregon State University contact:

Don Wysocki
2411 NW Carden Ave, Umatilla Hall,
Pendleton, OR 97801
509-278-4396 | 541-969-2014

Stem canker with pycnidia in the canker



Pycnidia of the black leg fungus on canola residue