

## **Blackleg in Canola and other Crucifers What You Need to Know**

### **THE FACTS:**

- The WSDA Crucifer Quarantine now includes all counties of eastern WA
- Blackleg has been confirmed in northeast OR grower fields and at the Pendleton research station
- Lesions have been observed in ID canola and rapeseed fields; the disease has been described as 'common' but not severe
- Blackleg has been confirmed in Garfield Co. based on a few infected leaves of volunteer from the 2015 canola crop

### **WHEN BUYING SEED:**

- Buy **ONLY** tested and certified blackleg-free seed
- Look for the green WSDA tag on each seed bag indicating Crucifer Quarantine compliance (including cover crop mixtures)
- Ask your seed rep for varieties with MR (moderately resistant) or R (resistant) blackleg rating
- Apply seed treatment (most companies already do but double check to be certain)

### **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 blackleg**

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

### **IF BLACKLEG IS OBSERVED** (current crop or past crop residue)

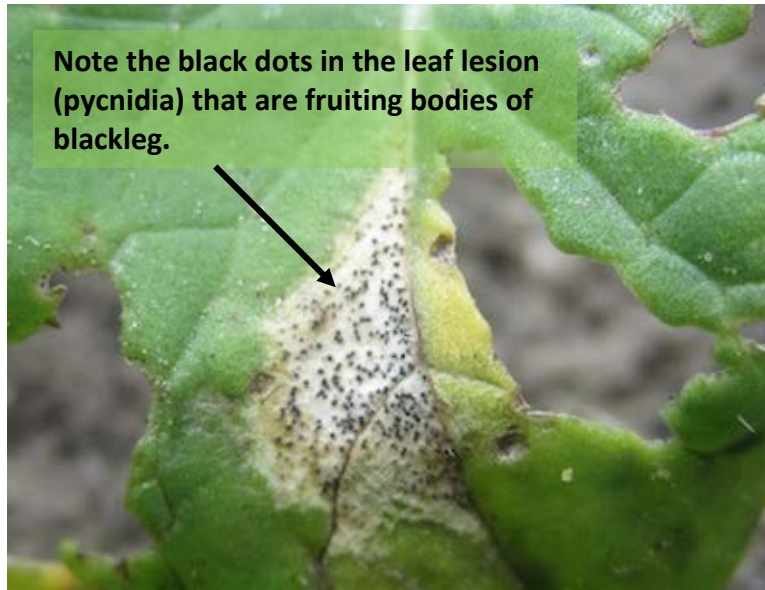
- Place fresh leaves and/or stems in a ziploc bag. If they are wet, blot them dry on a paper towel.
- Mail (preferably overnight) or deliver samples to the WSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic, UI or OSU Plant Pathology departments (see contact info on next page)
- Follow recommendations for applying fungicide **ONLY** if blackleg 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 blackleg symptoms; be vigilant in scouting fields



Note the black dots in the leaf lesion (pycnidia) that are fruiting bodies of blackleg.

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**Send samples to:**

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Stem canker, with pycnidia within the canker.



Blackleg pycnidia (fruiting bodies) on canola residue