

## **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 ratings
- 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

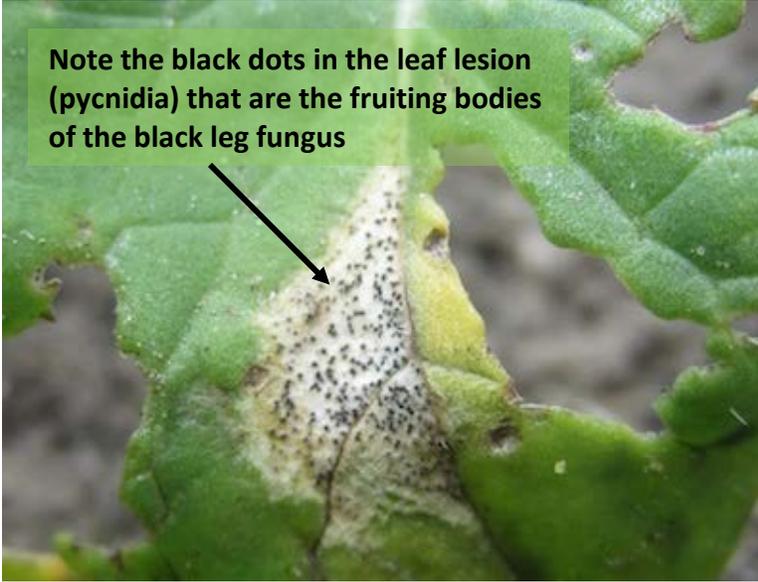
### **HARVEST and TRANSPORTATION**

- 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



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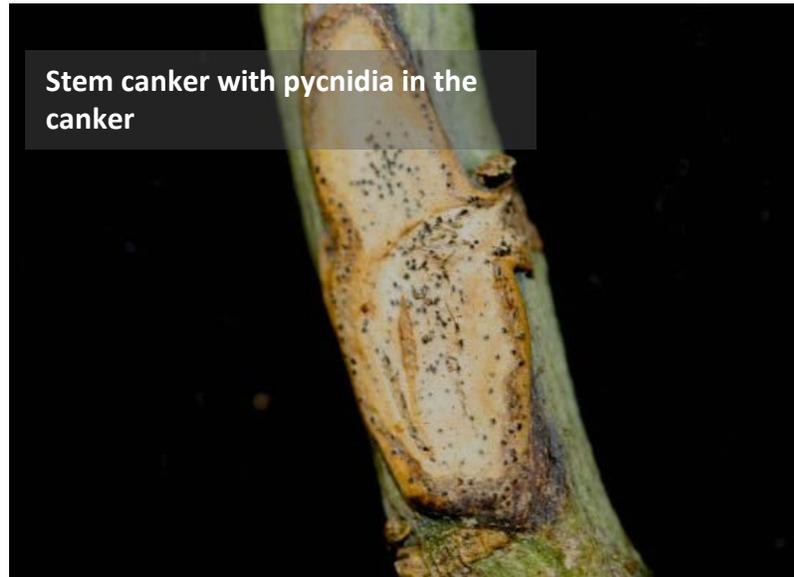
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Stem canker with pycnidia in the canker



Pycnidia of the black leg fungus on canola residue

