



Manage Blackleg to Keep it Clean

Before you draw up your blackleg management plan for next year, be sure to visit keepingitclean.ca/canola/blackleg. There you'll find disease management best practices, including crop rotation and selecting resistant varieties.

Taking a two to three-year break between canola crops will allow infected canola residue to break down, reducing the spores available to infect the next canola crop. During non-canola years, control volunteer canola and other Brassica weeds (such as stinkweed, shepherd's purse, wild mustard, flixweed) to prevent blackleg build up.

When it's time to plant, always grow resistant (R) or moderately resistant (MR) canola, rotating varieties to bring a mix of blackleg resistance genes and sources to the field over time.

Scout Before You Swath!

Before swathing your canola – always scout for blackleg! Pre-harvest scouting is the best time to discover the severity of infection, estimate the impact on yield and determine the effectiveness of your blackleg management plan.

Prior to swathing, visit the field to look for signs of blackleg. Starting at the field edge, pull up at least 50 plants in a w-pattern through the field and clip at the base of the stem/top of root, looking for blackened tissue. Then, to determine the severity of infection, compare your samples with the disease severity scale at keepingitclean.ca/canola/blackleg. The scale rates plants from 0 (no discolouration) to 5 (completely discoloured), and with each step on the rating scale there is a reduction in yield.

This information has been provided by Keep it Clean. Learn more best practices for managing blackleg at keepingitclean.ca/canola/blackleg! Working together, we can manage blackleg and protect Canada's reputation as a trusted supplier of high-quality canola.

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