



## MANAGE BLACKLEG IN CANOLA

Blackleg in canola can cause yield and quality losses, impact profitability and may create a market risk.

To help manage the disease and maintain the effectiveness of varieties with genetic resistance, [Keep it Clean](#) encourages growers to employ an integrated [blackleg management strategy](#), including pre-harvest scouting for the disease, rotating crops and growing and rotating resistant varieties.

### INTEGRATED BLACKLEG MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The following best practices should make up a grower's integrated blackleg management strategy:

- Blackleg pathogens overwinter on infected residue. Maintain a break between canola crops to allow time for crop residue to decompose – a minimum break of 2 years is recommended.
- Scout canola fields regularly for blackleg symptoms and incidence to help determine the effectiveness of your blackleg management plan. See below for scouting tips.
- Plant only canola varieties rated R (resistant) or MR (moderately resistant) to blackleg. Rotate varieties to bring a mix of blackleg resistance genes and sources to the field over time. Use a blackleg race identification test to determine predominant races in the field and help match appropriate resistance sources.
- Consider fungicide options: a fungicide seed treatment is available for many canola varieties to protect plants when they are most susceptible; an early season foliar fungicide application can help to prevent yield losses in higher risk situations.
- During non-canola years, control volunteer canola and other Brassica weeds (e.g. stinkweed, shepherd's purse, wild mustard and flaxweed) to prevent blackleg build up in the field.

### PRE-HARVEST SCOUTING

Although symptoms of blackleg appear throughout the season, the optimal time to scout for the disease is just before harvest or around 60% seed colour change.

To scout for blackleg, pull up at least 50 plants in a w-pattern through the field and clip at the base of the stem/top of the root to look for blackened tissue. Any black discolouration seen in the cross section can be compared to the [disease severity scale](#). 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.

Use the Canola Council of Canada's [Blackleg Yield Loss Calculator](#) to determine estimated yield losses and watch their [video](#) for more tips on blackleg scouting.

Managing disease pressures is just one of Keep it Clean's 5 Simple Tips to keep your crops market ready. Let's work together to keep blackleg at bay and protect Canada's reputation as a trusted supplier of high-quality canola.



*Keep it Clean* is a joint initiative of the Canola Council of Canada, Pulse Canada, Cereals Canada, Barley Council of Canada and Prairie Oat Growers Association, providing growers and advisors with resources for growing crops that meet the requirements of our domestic and export customers.