

Canola disease update

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Blackleg cankers in the branches and stems

- Blackleg normally causes cankers at the crown of the plant.
- Recent observations have seen more cankers on the stems and branches.
- 2014 was widespread and severe in some situations.





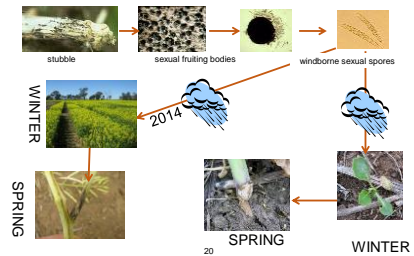


Causes

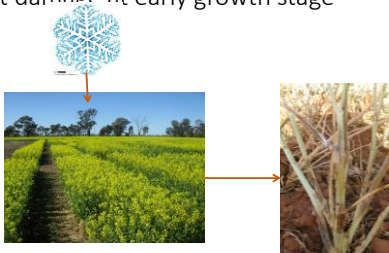
- We have isolated the pathogen and used PCR to confirm that it is blackleg *Leptosphaeria maculans*.
- No data on why it has caused new symptoms.

- Growth stage at timing of infection
 - Normal infection period -Blackleg spores and leaf wetness from May to end July.
 - Crops normally in the vegetative stage at this time of the year i.e. there is not normally any stem or branches to infect.
 - In 2014 early sown crops and warm autumn meant crops were branching during July.

Infection at seedling growth stage compared to infection at branching growth stage



Frost damage at early growth stage



Possible management

- Make sure canola flowers in the normal flowering window.
- Cultivars choice –cultivars with effective major gene resistance did not get stem/branch infection. Group D, E and F did not get stem lesions in Vic in 2014.