Department of Primary Industries

GRDC Grains Research & Development Corporation

Sclerotinia incidence and severity

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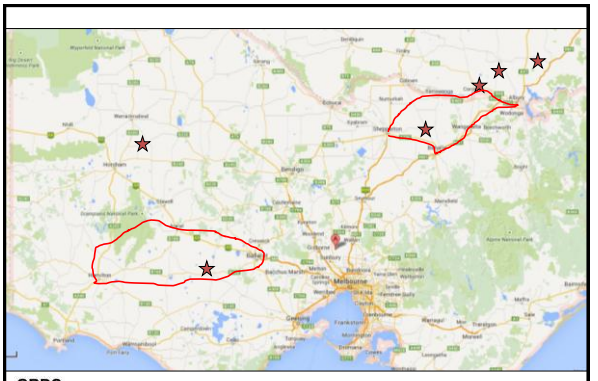
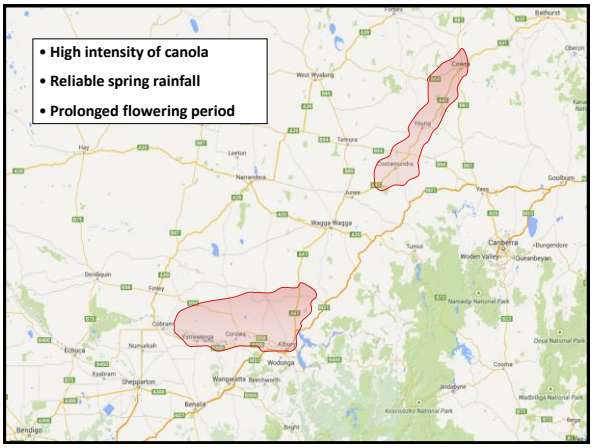
Sclerotinia

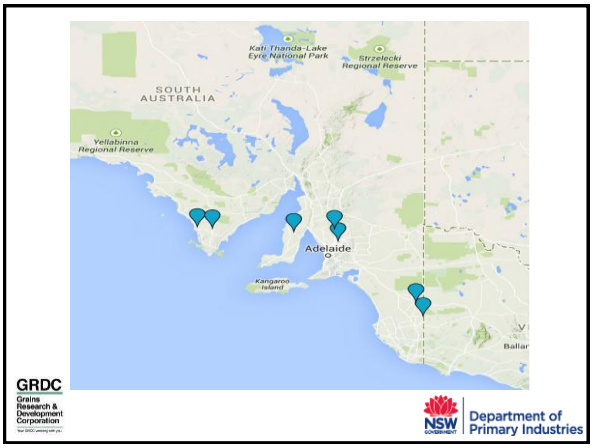
- Stem rot
- Sporadic
- Highly dependent on environmental conditions
- Flowering period – critical period for infections
- Disease favoured by:
  - High humidity
  - Frequent rainfall

Environmental observations 2014

- VIC & SA – normal flowering period with well below average rainfall
- WA & NSW:
  - Mild winter
  - Early flowering (NSW)
  - Early winter rainfall
  - Visible apothecia development before flowering
  - Emerged petals were infested with ascospores
- Dry and warm spring reduce the occurrence of stem rot







Overall disease incidence 2014

- Western Australia
  - Most severe infection occurred in northern and southern regions
  - incidence range from 0-87%
  - State-wide mean incidence 15%
- South Australia – no symptoms of infection detected at SABLOD sites
- New South Wales –infection levels of up to 50% at southern NSW
- Victoria – symptoms of stem infection detected at 3 sites (Wilaura 1%, Lake Bolac 3%, Dookie 25%)

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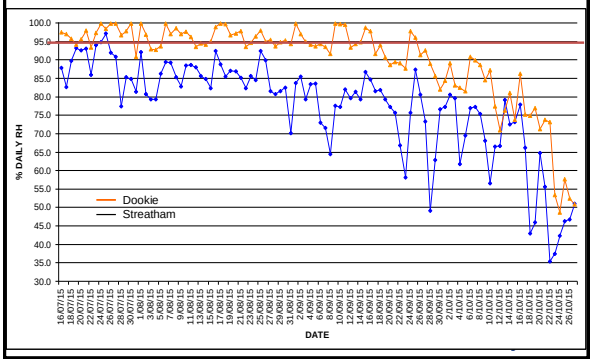
In-crop humidity for Dookie and Streatham - VIC



Summary 2014

- Disease prevalent in WA & NSW
- Incidence and severity was highly dependent on environmental conditions, in particular prolonged periods of humidity and rainfall events
- Source of inoculum is not a limiting factor
- Over 90% petals were infested from each region for most of the flowering period
- Stems and branch infections were observed more after flowering had finished ~ infected senescent leaves lodged between stems??

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