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MEDIA RELEASE

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GETTING TO THE 'HART' OF BLACKLEG MANAGEMENT

A practical guide to managing Blackleg in canola and reducing potential yield loss will be the focus of University of Melbourne research fellow Dr Angela Van De Wouw's sessions at the Hart Field Day on September 18.

Dr Van De Wouw says with more canola being grown this season, the risk of Blackleg and potential yield losses also increases, but monitoring and management of the disease can help prevent significant production losses.

"Because of the good prices in recent years, canola is being grown in much greater intensity," she says.

"Therefore there's so much more stubble left at the end of the year. This creates more canola inoculum as the disease is generated by spores released from stubble left from the previous crop."

Dr Van De Wouw urged growers to determine their own level of Blackleg disease paddock by paddock, citing that if growers found more than 50 per cent infection in sample stems they could face severe yield loss.

She said to prevent or reduce yield losses it was vital to choose a cultivar with adequate Blackleg resistance, to rotate cultivars, not rely on fungicides to control the disease, and never sow canola into last year's canola stubble.

Growers will have the opportunity to hear more about these practical tips from Dr Van De Wouw at this year's Hart Field Day.

Working closely with Horsham-based Dr Steve Marcroft of Marcroft Grains Pathology, Dr Van De Wouw is one of Australia's leading researchers into Blackleg in canola and the Hart Field Day will give growers direct access to her knowledge on the disease.

For more information on the Hart Field Day and to register for the event, take a look at the Hart Field Site Group website www.hartfieldsite.org.au or contact Sandy Kimber on 0427 423 154 or email admin@hartfieldsite.org.au.

Photos below.

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Monitoring a canola paddock for Blackleg disease, Dr Angela Van De Wouw urges farmers to monitor the disease in their own paddocks and will be at the Hart Field Day on 18 September to share some practical tips.



Canola stems showing the varying levels of Blackleg disease.