

Canola and Mustard

Ascochyta Leaf Spot

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Identification and Life Cycle

Several fungi in the genus *Ascochyta* can infect canola. The pathogens are disseminated by splashing water, wind, and movement of contaminated seed, and overwinter in infested crop debris and seed.

Plant Response and Damage

Infected plants exhibit dark, sunken lesions that soon take on a concentric ring appearance. Small, dark fruiting bodies called pycnidia are produced inside the lesions. Stem lesions often lead to girdling of the stem and plant tissue death above the point of infection. On pods, the lesions usually are circular with a darker border and they often display concentric rings and fruiting bodies inside the lesions also. Some infected seeds have dark spots /areas on the seed surface and often they are shriveled. The disease can reduce both yield and seed quality.

Management Approaches

Biological Control

No biological control strategies have been developed for *Ascochyta* leaf spot.

Cultural Control

Plant only high quality seed free from the *Aschochyta* blight pathogen. Practice a three- to four-year rotation to non-hosts such as small grains. Eliminate canola residues, volunteer, and cruciferous weeds to reduce pathogen survival and overwintering.

Chemical Control

Chemical controls are most effective when combined with sound cultural practices. Neem oil is not highly effective.

Product List for Ascochyta Leaf Spot:

Pesticide	Rate per Acre	Application Frequency	Remarks
Azoxystrobin			
Quadris	6.2-15.4 oz	7-14 days	Maximum of three applications (27 oz); Beginning applications at 10-25% bloom; Do not make application past 95% petal fall;
Boscalid			
Endura	5-6 oz	21 days	Maximum of two applications per season; also provides white mold suppression
Neem			
Trilogy	1% solution	7-14 days	Apply in 25 to 200 gallons

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