



SCLEROTINIA IN CANOLA

TIPS FOR BEST MANAGEMENT:

- Grow varieties with some tolerance to Sclerotinia
- Spray a fungicide at optimal timing (20-50% flower)
- Try to keep a weed free field. Broadleaf weeds host Sclerotinia
Ex. Chickweed, Stinkweed, Wild Mustard, Lambs Quarters, Dandelion
- Don't wait for visual symptoms; at this point a rescue treatment is ineffective

RISK FACTORS:

MOISTURE (KEY FACTOR)

- Moisture before and during flowering will increase infection
- Sources of moisture are rain, high humidity and morning dew

TEMPERATURE

- Influences severity of infection
- Daily temperatures between 15-25°C and above 15°C at nights are ideal for disease germination and infection

CANOPY CONDITIONS

- A thick, dense canopy enhances the microclimate and encourages disease
- Thick canopy factors: varieties, high nutrient rates, lodging, seeding rate

ROTATION

- Rotation with a non-host crop reduces the number of Sclerotinia spores present in the soil

ECONOMIC RISK

High Sclerotinia levels may result in yield losses of greater than 50% by:

- Producing smaller and fewer seeds
- Premature ripening
- Shattering pods
- Loss of smaller, shrunken seeds during combining



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