



Pulse Australia **MEDIA RELEASE**

Sclerotinia affects Lupins too

Recent warnings about the effect of the disease sclerotinia on canola highlight the need for growers to seriously consider their rotation options to reduce the threat it presents.

Alan Meldrum, from Pulse Australia, says growers need to reconsider where lupins fit when assessing the risk posed by sclerotinia. "Lupin, and all pulses, can host and suffer yield loss from sclerotinia. If growers are concerned about sclerotinia for their canola rotation, then lupins are also at risk. Rotation with non-host crops is one way to reduce the level of Sclerotinia inoculum in a paddock where the disease has previously affected canola."

"Sclerotinia is a lesser risk for yield loss in lupins", said Mr Meldrum. "However, if the growers aim is to reduce the threat from sclerotinia for canola, planting lupins might not reduce the level of Sclerotinia inoculum in a paddock."

Sclerotinia survives as hard sclerotia, which look suspiciously like mice droppings. These can remain viable in the soil for several years. As in-crop fungicide control is unlikely to be viable, currently the best way to reduce inoculum is to plant a non-host species. A high incidence will require several years before canola or other host plants such as lupins can be reintroduced.

"The short term options are limited to cereal production, which are not susceptible to sclerotinia", said Mr Meldrum.

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