



FELICITY PRITCHARD
Oilseed Industry Development Officer –
Victoria and southern New South Wales
Irrigated Cropping Forum
110 Natimuk Road, Horsham, Vic 3401
Ph: (03) 5382 4396 or 0427 600 228

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OILSEEDS NEWS

CANOLA DISEASE WARNING

Farmers who plan to sow canola into failed canola paddocks are putting this year's crop at great risk of the potentially devastating disease, blackleg, according to a leading industry figure.

In his last report after four years as president of the Canola Association of Australia, Trent Potter warned growers not to sow canola on last year's canola paddock, or even nearby.



DISEASE ALERT:
Canola growers have been warned to not sow canola on last year's canola paddocks to cut the risk of the disease, blackleg.

He said that some growers are considering growing canola on failed canola paddocks from last year.



DISEASE HARBOUR: Canola crown and stem stubble harbour ripening blackleg spores.

remains.”

“There is still a very real chance of blackleg developing in these paddocks,” said Mr Potter.

“Where crops were cut for hay or silage, there is at least 10 centimetres of the base of the plant remaining.

Also on crops that were grazed out, the crown still

He said that summer rain has started the blackleg spore ripening process. Both the crown and stem of canola plants can harbour spores.

“Further rain may allow spores to be mature at about sowing time to infect canola seedlings.”

Recent research has also found that burning canola stubble is not effective in controlling blackleg as it does not destroy all stubble, which can still release blackleg spores.

The keys to managing blackleg are using resistant varieties, sowing canola at least 500 metres from the previous year’s crop and sometimes the use of fungicides.
