White leaf spot

**Description:** White leaf spot commonly infects canola seedlings. Leaf, stem and pod lesions are greyish-white to light brown. Unlike blackleg lesions, white leaf spot lesions do not contain pycnidial fruiting bodies (black dots). In severe epidemics, infections can defoliate plants.

**Management:** White leaf spot infection is not usually severe enough to warrant control. The fungus survives on canola stubble producing wind-borne spores that result in leaf lesions during wet conditions. Therefore, crop rotation and isolation from the previous year’s canola stubble will reduce infection.

**Images:** M Barbetti, DAFWA