

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



White leaf spot infection on a leaf (top) and severe infection moving up the plant (right).