



Test and Tag

WSDA Acts to prevent spread of destructive fungal disease

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has expanded the crucifer seed quarantine area and established requirements intended to prevent the spread of black leg fungal disease.

Revised state regulations extend the crucifer quarantine area from five counties in northwestern Washington to include all of Eastern Washington (*see bottom of page for all counties included). The new rules were requested by the seed and oil producing industries. All seed, regardless of origin, must be tested for black leg and tagged.



Photo: Lindsey du Toit, Washington State University

Why is this important?

Black leg was discovered in Oregon's Willamette Valley in 2014 where it continues to spread. This fungal disease was also confirmed in northern Idaho canola crops in 2015. Black leg affects crucifer crops. Also known as cruciferous, they include plants in the Brassicaceae, Raphanus, or Sinapis families, such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, bok choy, Brussels sprouts, as well as canola and rape, sources of oils. Mustard and radish, used to make fumigants, are also susceptible.

So far, Washington has not detected black leg in crops. Planting only seeds that have been tested and/or treated is the best way to control and prevent the spread of fungal diseases, such as black leg.



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Washington counties included in the crucifer quarantine area

* **Western Washington:** *Clallam, Island, Lewis, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom.*

Eastern Washington: *Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima.*



How will Washington avoid black leg?

WSDA has adopted regulations requested by the seed and oil industries aimed at curbing spread of the disease. Revised state regulations (WAC 16-301-490 – 580) extend the crucifer seed quarantine to all of Eastern Washington. The quarantine bans planting any seed infected with the regulated disease, black leg.

These rules require crucifer seeds to be:

- Laboratory tested and certified as free of black leg.
- Tagged for sale indicating the seeds have met the test and treat requirements.

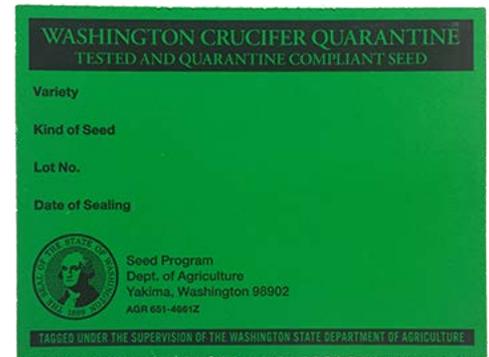


Photo: Lindsey du Toit, Washington State University

What should I do?

Seed producers should become familiar with and follow the regulations for crucifer seeds. Most of the established seed businesses in Washington have been voluntarily practicing these requirements.

Growers should look for the WSDA-issued tags that assure seeds they buy for planting are certified to be free of black leg (see image to the right).



For more information and assistance, contact the WSDA Seed Program at:

- email: vshaul@agr.wa.gov or
- phone: 509 249-6950.

To learn about how the regulations are changing, go to the [crucifer seed rulemaking page](#) on WSDA’s website.