
PestFax

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New canola blackleg spore shower forecast available

Monitor emerging crops for locusts

Rutherglen bugs are damaging canola seedlings

Slugs and snails are still active down south and other insects are eating the baits

New canola blackleg spore shower forecast available

DAFWA's latest [blackleg spore shower forecast](#) is now available.

The DAFWA blackleg sporacle model predicts the onset of blackleg ascospore release from canola stubble for 25 canola growing districts of Western Australia using the latest weather data from the nearest weather stations to these locations.

Due to lack of sufficient rain the fruiting body maturation process has halted or slowed down in many canola growing areas of the state.



Based upon the latest weather data, the model is currently predicting that the fungal fruiting bodies are now mature in Jerramungup and Salmon Gums which means blackleg spores are now releasing in these areas. Fruiting bodies are very close to maturation in Esperance Downs, Scaddan, Munglinup and Mount Barker districts.

Canola pathologist Ravjit Khangura (DAFWA) encourages farmers in these areas to plant canola at least 500m away from last year's canola residues and use in-furrow and seed dressing fungicides in high disease pressure situations.

Applying a foliar fungicide is beneficial in the following situations;

- Where growers have missed the opportunity of applying an up-front fungicide application.
- When continuous wet conditions experienced during susceptible canola growth (up to six leaf stage) increase the number of successful infection events.

The model also shows that depending upon the rainfall events in the coming weeks the fungal fruiting bodies

may mature earlier in Lake King, Lake Grace, Katanning, Narrogin, Darkan and Williams shires.

In some central and eastern shires (Northam, York, Tammin and Merredin) the spore maturity hasn't progressed much; therefore the risk of spore showers coinciding with canola seedling emergence in these areas remains unchanged at this stage.

In a majority of northern areas (Northampton, Eradu, Mingenew and Mullewa) the spore maturation process has not yet commenced and consequently the risk of spores falling at the susceptible canola seedling stage is currently very low in these areas.

Visit the [Canola blackleg spore maturity forecast for Western Australia](#) page to find out the forecast for other shires. The blackleg spore shower risk will change each week as the season progresses depending upon the weather conditions in the coming weeks, therefore, growers are urged to check the weekly updates.

The overall risk of blackleg infection on a property will be determined by factors such as resistance level of the canola variety, paddock rotation, years of using the same resistance group, fungicide usage, distance from previous year's canola residues and stubble reduction.

For further details on blackleg management and current blackleg ratings refer to Grains Research and Development's (GRDC) [Blackleg Management Guide \(2017 autumn variety ratings\)](#).

For more information contact [Ravjit Khangura](#), Research Officer, South Perth on +61 (0)8 9368 3374.

Monitor emerging crops for locusts

- Miling
- Coomberdale
- Wongan Hills
- DAFWA autumn locust surveys



David Cameron (Farmanco) reports that two growers near Miling and Coomberdale have been finding high numbers of locusts on their properties. He said that most other properties are experiencing moderate to low numbers of locusts. With seeding underway in the area, the locusts may pose a risk as crops germinate.

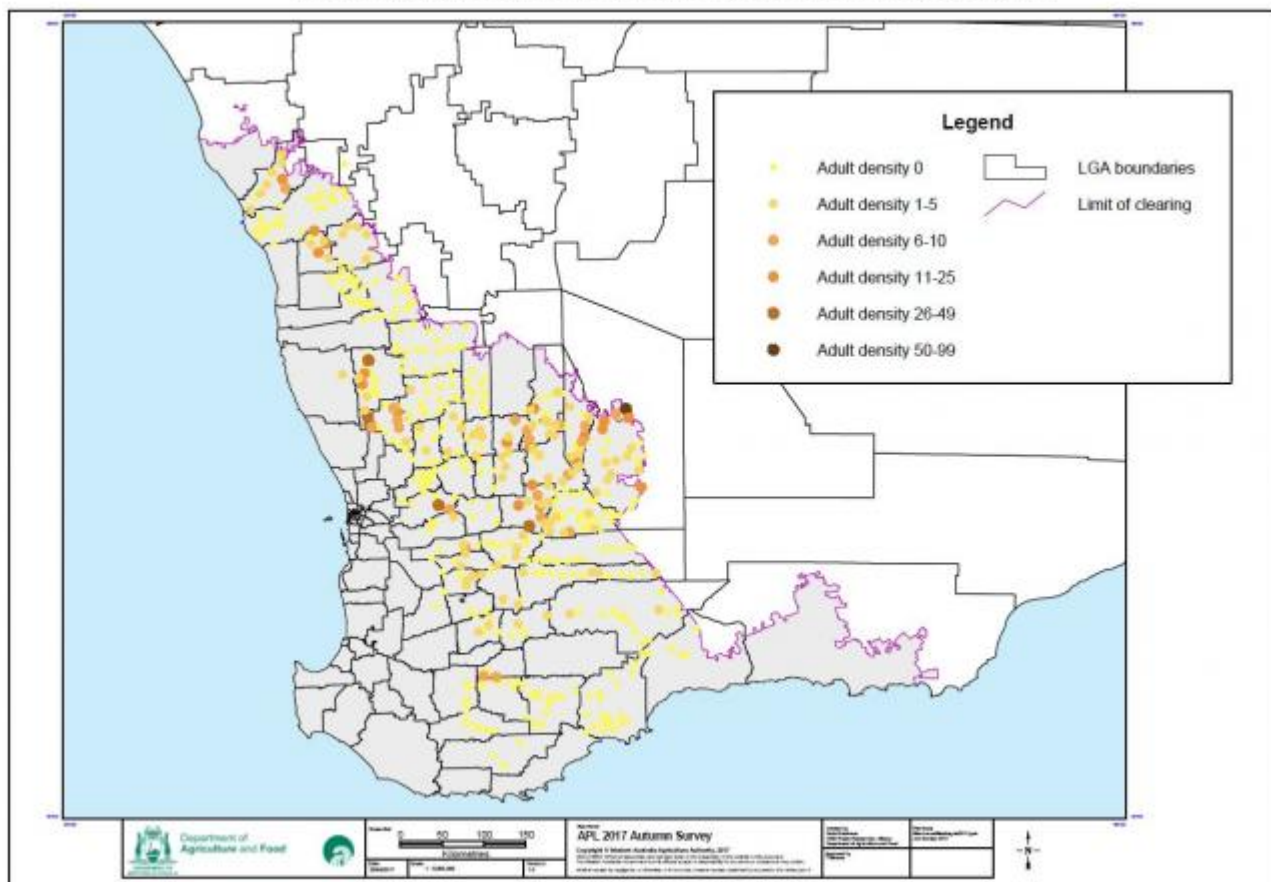
Luke Dawson (CSBP) and Bec Swift (DAFWA) have also reported seeing locusts in the Miling area.

Tyrone Henning (TekAg) has reported winged Australian plague locust (APL) on wild radish plants near Wongan

Hills (Neakarling). They were in medium to low densities.

DAFWA staff have finished conducting autumn locust surveys in the agricultural regions of the state. A total of 477 sites have been surveyed with low (6-10 APL adults in 100m transects) to very low (less than five APL adults in 100m transects) populations found.

AUSTRALIA PLAGUE LOCUST 2017 AUTUMN SURVEY



A total of 477 sites have been surveyed for APL by DAFWA staff with low to very low populations found

However, surveyors also found there were a mixture of species present, with small plague grasshoppers being found in some areas.

Entomologist Svetlana Micic (DAFWA) commented that locust activity will diminish with the start of wet and cooler weather conditions. For APL to be mobile, they need warm days to move across the landscape.

It is expected that any crop damage this year will be localised to areas where there are paddocks close by which have a population of APL already present. These paddocks if they have germinating crops may be impacted by locusts.

There are a number of chemicals registered for locust control. While synthetic pyrethroids may have been used in a knockdown mix they do not have residual to protect crops at emergence.

The best strategy is to monitor seeded paddocks for locusts, especially if the paddock has APL present or adjacent paddocks do. Apply a direct application of insecticide if locusts are damaging emerging crops. The best time to spray is in the morning of a warm day before locusts become too active and avoid the insecticide. Continue to monitor paddocks as locusts may reinfest a treated area.

More information about locusts and control options is available at DAFWA's [Australian plague locust: overview page](#).

For more information contact [Svetlana Micic](#), Research Officer, Albany on +61 (0)8 9892 8591.

Rutherglen bugs are damaging canola seedlings

- Scaddan
- Esperance



Kelly Ryan (DAFWA) reports that a grower at Scaddan has sprayed a germinating canola crop after finding rutherglen bugs damaging the plants.

Andrea Hills (DAFWA) has also noticed high numbers of rutherglen bugs in the Esperance region.

Rutherglen bugs are often found in paddocks that have had summer weeds. Especially paddocks that have had an abundance of Goosefoot (*Chenopodium pumilio*), which is also commonly called mint weed. Swarms of the bugs, nymphs and adults, often move out from under weed plants when they are disturbed.

Rainfall during February and March and the growth of weeds (especially mintweed) accompanied by warm weather will have favoured the early season increase of rutherglen bugs.

For a list of insecticides registered for rutherglen bugs, see DAFWA's [Autumn Winter insecticide guide 2017](#).

More information can be found at DAFWA's [Diagnosing rutherglen bug](#) page.

For more information contact [Dustin Severtson](#), Development Officer, South Perth on +61 (0)8 9368 3249.

Slugs and snails are still active down south and other insects are eating the baits

- Woogenellup
- Mount Barker

- Gairdner
- Esperance



Small pointed snail feeding on a canola seedling.

As part of the GRDC funded national project DAS00160, Biology and management of snails and slugs in grain crops, cameras are being used to monitor slug and snail movement in southern WA.

Cameras located at Mount Barker, Gairdner, Esperance are showing slugs and snails are actively moving and have been for the last four weeks. Placebo baits placed under cameras show snails and slugs are actively feeding. The cameras have also caught beetles and European earwigs feeding on baits. This means that not all baits that have been laid out by growers are being eaten by the intended mollusc pests.

As a part of this project Svetlana Micic (DAFWA entomologist) has undertaken some snail dissections and found that the albumen gland has formed, this means that snails are laying or will be laying eggs shortly.



A farmer in the Woogenellup area has also reported that running a line of snail baits across the paddock led to them discovering that slugs were present in that paddock. The paddock has now been baited and germinating canola is being monitored.

For more information on slug and snail management visit DAFWA's;

- PestFax 2017 Issue 2 [Snails and slugs are on the move in the south](#) article
- [Identification and control of pest slugs and snails for broadacre crops in WA](#) page
- [Snail and slug control](#) page.

For more information contact [Svetlana Micic](#), Research Officer, Albany on +61 (0)8 9892 8591.

All Page Links

[1] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/canola/canola-blackleg-spore-maturity-forecast-western-australia>

[2] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files>

/Canola%20blackleg%20fruiting%20bodies%20RKhangura.jpg

[3] <https://grdc.com.au/Resources/Factsheets/2017/03/Blackleg-Management-Guide-2017>

[4] <mailto:ravjit.khangura@agric.wa.gov.au>

[5] https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/4313068%20locust_1.jpg

[6] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/APL%20map.JPG>

[7] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/australian-plague-locust-overview>

[8] <mailto:svetlana.micic@agric.wa.gov.au>

[9] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Rutherglen%20bug%20DAFWA.jpg>

[10] https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Autumn%20Winter%20%20Insecticide%20Guide_2017.docx

[11] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/mycrop/diagnosing-rutherglen-bug>

[12] <mailto:dustin.severtson@agric.wa.gov.au>

[13] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Snails%20at%20Doncons%20on%20canola%20035.jpg>

[14] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files>

/Reticulated%20and%20black%20keeled%20slug%20Micic_0.jpg

[15] https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/newsletters/pestfax/pestfax-issue-2-april-2017?page=0%2C2#smartpaging_toc_p2_s0_h2

[16] https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/grains/identification-and-control-pest-slugs-and-snails-broadacre-crops-western-australia?page=0%2C1#smartpaging_toc_p1_s2_h3

[17] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pest-animals/snail-and-slug-control>

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