

Transcript

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# In the video are:

# Doctor Daniel Huberli, Plant Pathologist with the Department of Agriculture & Food WA

# Transcript

# Rhizoctonia, tell us as you are walking through a paddock what would you be looking out for then? Primarily you are looking for the distinct patches as we can see in the field in here but it depends when the infection occurs, so if you get early infection you do get the distinct patch, that is, it’s affecting the seminal roots whereas if you get later infection it affects the crown roots. You'll often get the waviness and we've got some waviness here too, it might be potentially both have occurred here.

# Infection can occur all the way through the growing season, it's not on a particular time and that's what makes it very difficult to control. And a serious impact no doubt on the production in the paddock. Yeah it's estimated to cost the grower wheat and barley annually $27 million dollars in Western Australia so it's quite a big problem. It is widespread we've seen it all the way from Salmon Gums up to the northern regions so it’s a wide spread issue.

# And digging under the ground no doubt is a really important thing in the root condition like this. It's really important to look below the ground at the roots. Above the ground it could be nematodes, it could be rhizoctonia it's not often easy to distinguish between the two and you can actually get both co-occurring together. So when you dig up the roots, then you get a distinct symptomology for rhizoctonia. You’ll get spear tipping and we can see it on these particular plants here. There's distinct spear tipping on the crown roots and that would be what is rhizoctonia. With any root pathogen it's really very difficult to do anything at that time so you need to get the correct diagnosis so that you can understand what the issue is and then you can do something about it in the next season. For rhizoctonia it's very tricky because there are so many is susceptible hosts. So all the cereals susceptible, barley is the most susceptible of all, canola, even the weeds are very susceptible too so if you've got a lot of weeds in your paddock especially over summer it can keep that inoculum increasing over that time. Which then when you put your crop in you have a bigger problem potentially so even weeds are potential hosts as well come the growing season.

# At the moment what we have are a number of seed treatments and they do offer some protection. In our trials on average about 5 per cent it can be either way, we had I think up to15 per cent control but we're also working on some new potential control options that hopefully will be released in the next year or two and they'll offer up to 15 - 20 per cent control. As I said in terms of rotation it's very hard although we did find for canola that the inoculum levels do seem to drop down a bit but if you've got a paddock with really high inoculum then it may not actually solve the problem for you and as I said canola is susceptible anyway.

# And what are the key messages? Key messages are make sure you have the diagnosis correct, look at the roots and identify what’s the primary problem is and also send away your samples to get that diagnosis correct.

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