

Controlling diseases in Pinnacle canola

The aim was to investigate whether Atrazine has the effect of reducing disease incidence in TT canola.

BACKGROUND

There is some evidence that Atrazine applied post emergent has the effect of reducing the incidence of Sclerotinia

METHOD

A block of Pinnacle canola was sown on May 15. Atrazine treatments were applied either once (1.5L EPE) or twice (1.5L EPE and LPE) (EPE=early post emergent; LPE=late post emergent). The trial was replicated (three replicates) in a nearest neighbour design. The incidence of disease was assessed in the crop post flowering.

RESULTS

Only a very low level of Sclerotinia was observed in the crop, however Blackleg was present. 20 stem samples were taken from each plot and assessed (by cutting the base of the stem) for infection. Blackleg was scored from 0 for no damage (no blackening), 2 for moderate infection (half the stem was black), to 4 for severe infection with the whole of the base black.

	Black leg rating#	Yield (t/ha)
Control	1.9	0.40
Atrazine 1.5L EPE	1.4	0.37
Atrazine 1.5L EPE and LPE	1.1	0.45
Significant difference:	P<0.05, LSD=0.6	NS

black leg score: 0=no damage, 2=moderate infection, 4=severe infection

INTERPRETATION

A small but significant decrease in black leg infection was observed from the Atrazine applications. Further work will have to be undertaken in this area to confirm these results.

There were no differences in yield between the treatments.