

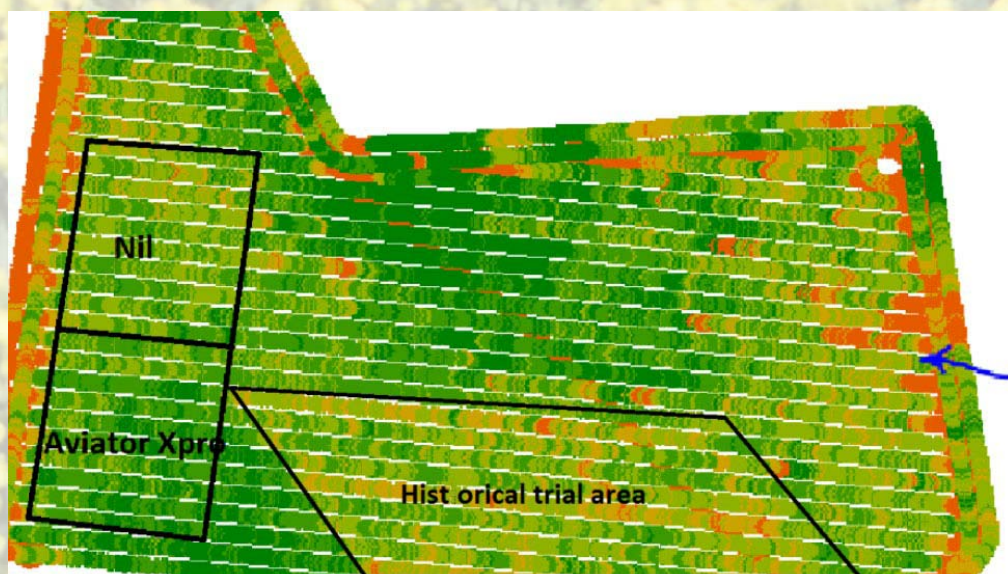
Sclerotinia economics case study: Temora 2015

BACKGROUND

Despite sclerotinia not being a serious issue at Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre in previous years, the presence of the disease has been noted. With over 400 host plants, sclerotinia can easily build up during legume and even pasture phases. The cropping history of this paddock was wheat in 2014, barley in 2013 and pasture in 2012. Based on this rotation, the potential for sclerotinia to build up would have been limited to the pasture phase (if legume based), therefore overall pressure from sclerotinia in 2015 was likely to be low in this paddock. Paddocks or cropping rotation with frequent legume or canola phases are most at risk particularly in areas with higher and more reliable spring rainfall.

Location	TAIC
Grower	FarmLink
Variety	Stingray
Flowering length	6 weeks
Sowing date	29th April
Application date	2nd September
Application	80 L/ha
Aviator® Xpro rate	600 mL/ha
Flowering stage	50%
Aviator® Xpro yield	1.05 t/ha
Untreated	0.94 t/ha
ROI \$/ha	\$11.75 /Ha*

* = Assumes canola price of \$500/T, product + application cost of \$38.25/ha



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Left: External stem cankering caused by blackleg.

Right: Late season blackleg spores growing on upper canopy stems and seed pods.



Source: GRDC / Steve Marcroft blackleg presentation 2015

OUTCOMES AND CONSIDERATIONS

This paddock of Stingray struggled somewhat for biomass and as a result didn't produce a lot of bulk that would have contributed to moisture and humidity retention within the canopy. This lack of bulk was reflected in the final yield of 0.95 t/ha when other canola crops on the farm were achieving yields upwards of 1.6 t/ha.

Sclerotinia counts were conducted prior to windrowing with no signs of sclero infection evident in any treatment, however it was noted that blackleg was present in the upper canopy of this Stingray crop and at quite high levels. In the absence of sclerotinia this may explain some of the yield response to the application of Aviator® Xpro despite it being outside of the targeted window of application for Blackleg. Whilst it is expected that Prosaro® and Aviator® Xpro will both have good activity on late season blackleg infections, application timing work will be investigated further in 2016.



Bayer CropScience

This is one in a series of four case studies developed from research undertaken in a partnership between FarmLink and Bayer Crop Science in 2015. The full series can be found at www.farmlink.com.au

NOTE: Aviator® Xpro is a new foliar fungicide by Bayer Crop Science which contains the active ingredients prothioconazole and bixafen. Aviator® Xpro will be registered in a range of broad acre crops including canola and is expected to be commercially available in 2017.

