



FAQ:
**Permanent Rule for Blackleg Disease Prevention
in the Willamette Valley**
1/13/2015

In 2014, Oregon State University (OSU) Extension personnel detected an outbreak of blackleg disease (*Phoma lingam*) in *Brassica* (broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, canola, cauliflower, Chinese *Brassica* vegetables, collards, kales, mizuna, mustards, oilseed rape, oilseed turnip rape, rutabaga, turnip, etc.) and *Raphanus* (daikon or radish) seed and vegetable fields in the Willamette Valley. Following several meetings with an advisory committee, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has adopted amendments to OAR 603-052-0870 to protect crucifer crops (Brassicaceae) grown throughout the state of Oregon from this disease. Following is a list of frequently asked questions about the rule change.

What does the rule require? The rule requires that all Brassicaceae (crucifer) seed intended for commercial planting in Oregon be tested and certified free of blackleg and be treated for blackleg prior to planting. Growers must also adopt specific cultural practices, such as mandatory crop rotation and managing susceptible volunteers in and around production fields. Specific management practices (fungicide applications, post-harvest residue management, roguing out infected plants, or crop destruction) are also required in fields in which blackleg has been officially confirmed.

When does it go into effect? The new requirements went into effect on January 13, 2015 and shall remain in effect until the Department and affected stakeholders determine otherwise.

What seed treatments will the Department accept? The seed may be treated with a fungicide registered for that purpose or, if you are an organic grower, with a hot water treatment (25- to 30-min at 122°F (50°C)). For a list of fungicides available to treat Brassicaceae seed, please contact the ODA Pesticides Division (503-986-4635) for help. All treatments must be documented as required by Federal Seed Law and OAR 603-056-0431, and those documents made available to the ODA upon request.

Where can I get my seed tested? There are several in-state labs that can provide this service, including the OSU Plant Clinic (541-737-3472), the ODA Plant Health Laboratory (503-986-4620), Agri Seed Testing (503-585-1440), and Oregon Seed Certification Service (541-737-4513).

What if I'm selling to home gardeners only? Small, prepackaged seed lots of 0.5 oz. or less are exempt from this rule, as are transplants intended for home use.

What if I'm just packaging seed for growers out of state? If the seed will not be planted in Oregon and will be shipped to an out-of-state customer instead, then you must meet the phytosanitary import requirements of the receiving state or country. You must test and/or treat for blackleg only if the importing state or country requires it.