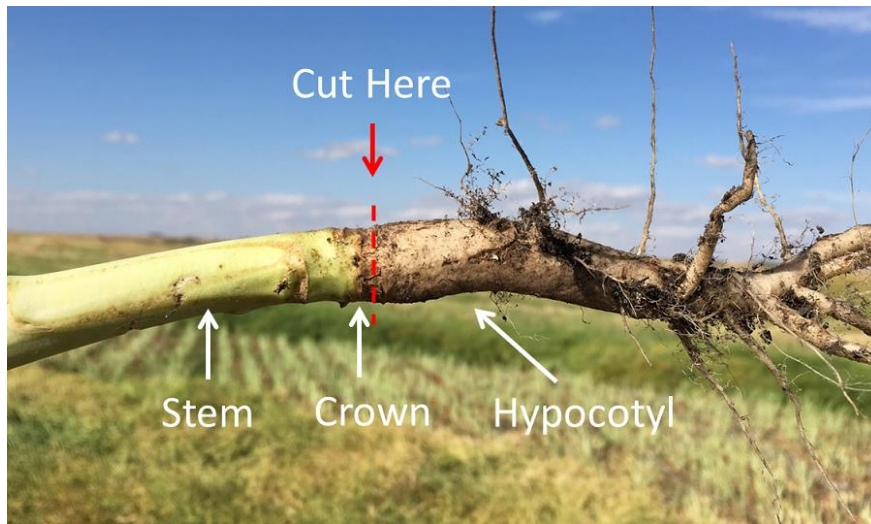


# Collecting Samples for Blackleg Race Testing

Scouting for blackleg is most easily done during swathing or just prior to desiccation. Stems should still be green. Pull a stem from the ground, knock the excess dirt off and cut just below the crown (junction between stem and hypocotyl marked by a ring) with a sharp pair of shears.



You should see solid woody tissue through the cut. If you can see pith (fibrous inner section of the stem) you've cut too high. Sample ten random stems, each several paces apart. Repeat in at least 3 areas spread across the field.



Look for black discoloration within the hypocotyl tissue, often appearing in a wedge pattern. If a stem looks to be infected, keep a 2-3 inch piece for testing. Allow samples to air dry overnight before packaging to avoid excessive fungal growth.

Keep notes on how many stems you surveyed, how many were infected and in which field samples were collected. This will be important when talking to your seed supplier or agronomist about variety selection. Testing will be performed on up to twelve samples per field. Make sure to package samples from each field separately.