Blackleg or Dry rot canker on Brassica

Recognize the problem
The disease is manifested by large, sunken and brown rot which occurs on stems near the soil line. This rotting results in stunting, wilting and general poor growth of the plant. If seedlings are affected early, they may die. The disease damage can be seen by cutting open the stem. The stem usually has blackened lines.

Background
The pathogen has the ability to be carried in and on seed. Cool moist conditions speed up disease development. Spores are spread by splashing water and wind currents. The disease is also found on brassica weeds and plant material that has not decomposed well after harvest.

Management
Non-chemical control
• Observe field hygiene and avoid working when the farm is wet.
• Practice crop rotation with other crops for at least three years.
• Use clean certified seeds and seedlings.
• Diseased seedlings should be removed from the seedbed.
• Improve soil drainage to avoid water logging.
• Use *Trichoderma* ssp. to offer effective biocontrol of black leg.

Scientific name(s) > *Leptosphaeria maculans*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: many countries where this pest or problem is present.