

19.1 Background

Phytophthora root rot is a soilborne disease of chickpeas caused by the oomycete *Phytophthora medicaginis*. The pathogen is widespread in northern NSW and southern Qld and survives between crops on volunteer chickpeas, lucerne, native medics, sulla and as oospores in roots and soil.

IMPACT

- In wet seasons or in seasons with just a single saturating rain event, Phytophthora root rot can cause crop failure.

WHERE DAMAGE IS MORE LIKELY

- In northern NSW and southern Queensland on a range of soils but especially Vertisols.
- In low lying areas of paddocks, where water accumulates e.g. on the high side of contour banks and where water flows across the paddock.
- Paddocks with a history of chickpea Phytophthora root rot, medics, lucerne and weed hosts.

HOW TO USE RESULTS

- To confirm diagnosis of Phytophthora root rot in-crop, as the symptoms are similar to those caused by waterlogging, this information will affect future management plans.
- Do not rely on PREDICTA B to detect *Phytophthora medicaginis* in pre-sowing soil samples because the pathogen levels decline rapidly after the crop has matured. Even targeting sampling to high risk areas in the paddock may not detect the pathogen.
- There are no in-crop treatments to control Phytophthora root rot, all steps to reduce the risk of disease must be made before seeding.