

WHITE MOLD OVERVIEW IN EUROPE

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White mold is a key disease on several crops in Europe, including oil crops, vegetables and ornamentals. With some notable exceptions in certain countries such as Switzerland, oilseed rape is widely affected and disease incidence above 20-30% is not rare. Resistant varieties are not commercially available (research is ongoing) and growers commonly rely on chemical control. Risk assessment models and warning systems are published by extension services (for example in the UK and in France) to provide assistance for the optimal positioning of phytosanitary interventions. Resistance to certain fungicides (such as boscalid) has increasingly been observed and is closely monitored in France. The use of *Coniothyrium minitans* for biological control has steadily gained interest and new products based on other micro-organisms have reached the European market in recent years. Biocontrol against white mold is also widely used on other host crops such as vegetables. The disease has recently become quite problematic on crops such as melon and witloof chicory that were formerly relatively spared, raising epidemiological questions and issues about the structure of *Sclerotinia* sp. populations. Examples of European groups currently focused on *Sclerotinia* and their research interests will be provided.