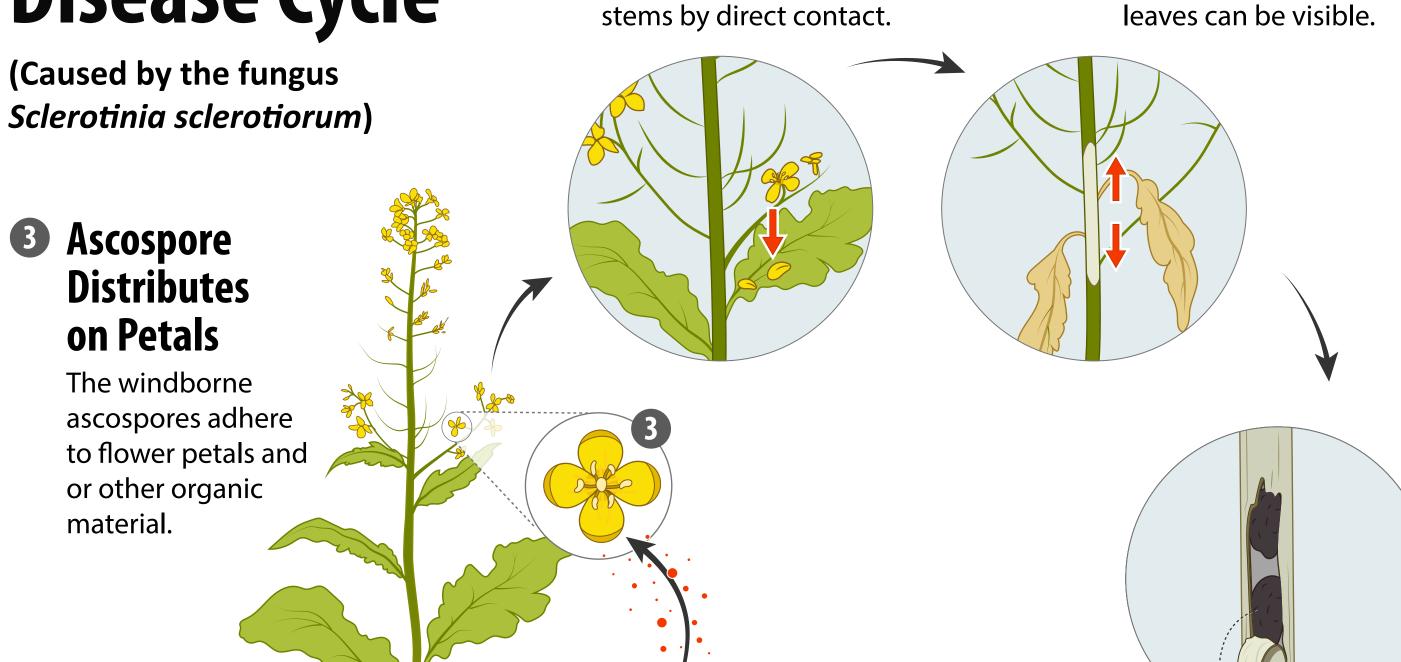
Sclerotinia Stem Rot Disease Cycle

4 Germination and Distribution of Infection

Ascospores germinate, infect the petal, and spread to adjacent tissues of healthy leaves and stems by direct contact.

5 Distribution of Fungal Lesion

The lesions progress up and down the stem. At this stage, wilted leaves can be visible.



6 Formation of New Sclerotia

The infected stem becomes bleached and brittle and forms new sclerotia. The sclerotia return to the soil at harvest and the cycle repeats.

Pormation of Apothecia

Apothecium

Spore-producing apothecia germinate from sclerotia under moist plant canopy and release ascospores.

Ascospores

SclerotiaOverwinter in Soil

Sclerotium

The stem rot fungus (*Sclerotinia* sclerotiorum) overwinters as sclerotia in the soil or in stubble at the soil surface.