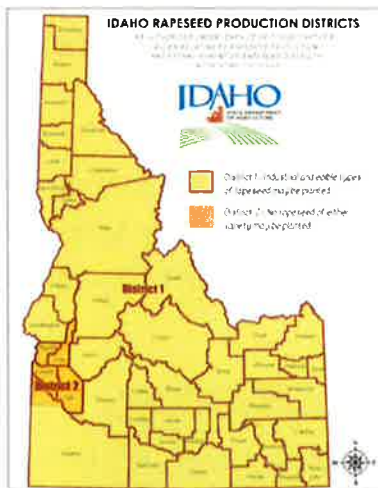
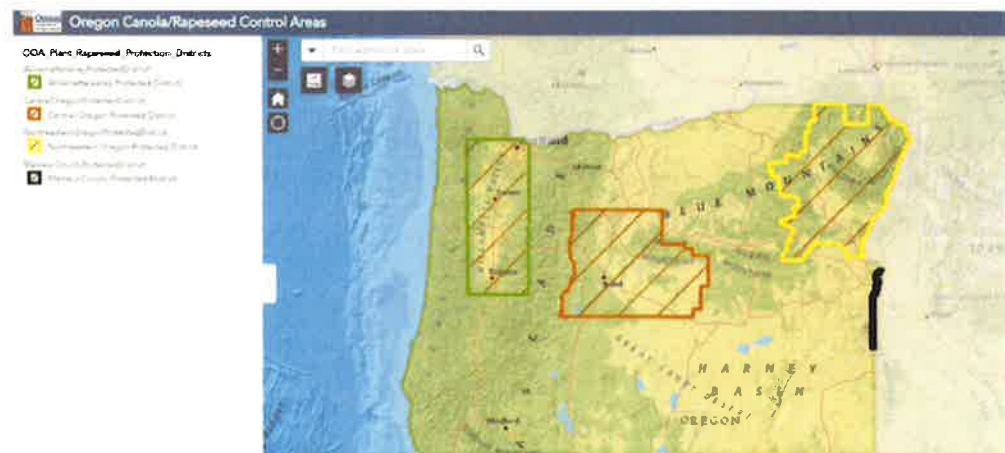


# OREGON FARMERS URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB 4059-B

HB 4059-B maintains the status of the Willamette Valley Protected District until January 2, 2028 — extending the sunset and giving growers in the Willamette Valley the time and protections necessary to continue production of specialty seed crops until a permanent, lasting policy solution can be agreed upon.

The Willamette Valley is one of the last regions on earth suitable for large-scale brassica seed production, **growing over 90% of the world's supply of certain brassica seed varieties**. If HB 4059-B is not passed this Legislative Session, this industry will be at risk of irreparable, irrevocable damage from the disease and cross-contamination risks associated with canola production.

- In Oregon, ODA already regulates **three other production zones** that ban or limit production of canola crops



- In Idaho, District 2 of the Idaho Rapeseed Production Districts bans canola of any variety
- In Washington, two canola isolation zones exist that either ban or limit canola with pinning maps
  - Inglis, et al 2013, *Production of Brassica Seed Crops in Washington State: A Case Study on the Complexities of Coexistence* found that weeds from canola “pose a threat of cross-pollinating with Brassica vegetable seed crops that might be planted in nearby fields.”

There is scientific documentation for the concerns expressed over cross-contamination and feral populations of canola from numerous studies. A [study from the Washington State University Extension Service](#) noted that canola is one of the few food crops “that is also sexually compatible with some related Brassica vegetable species,” posing risks for cross-contamination, spreading fungus and bacterium pathogens, irreversible weed persistence, and genetic modifications for herbicide resistance.

Oregon’s own OSU scientist Dr. Jim Myers, who holds the Baggett-Frazier Endowed Professorship of Vegetable Breeding and Genetics in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University, has [documented research on the threats of conventional canola on brassica seed crops](#). Dr. Myers concluded that “the introduction of genetically modified, herbicide-tolerant canola also constitutes a threat to vegetable seed production,” as GE/GMO crops are designed to live and reproduce in inadvertent, unanticipated ways that increase the risk of cross-contamination.



GMO canola found growing in the wild in North Dakota.  
<https://news.uark.edu/articles/14453/first-wild-canola->

The science on this issue isn’t settled, but we do know that canola poses a risk to other brassica seed varieties. What remains unclear is the most viable solutions on how to mitigate and manage those risks, while balancing the needs of farmers across every industry.

**HB 4059-B allows more time to identify those solutions, while keeping the existing industry-standard practices in place.**

Right now, the existing protections on the Willamette Valley Protected District are set to sunset on July 1, 2024. **The expiration of this sunset would be catastrophic to Oregon’s specialty seed farmers and to the global brassica seed industry as a whole.**

If we let these protections sunset, we risk the loss of an industry that brings millions of dollars of revenue into the state, supports farmers of every size and capability, and produces millions of pounds of food eaten across the globe – for these reasons, your support of HB 4059-B is critical.

**WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR  
HB 4059-B**