

InVigor® L233P, L234PC, L255PC, L340PC, L345PC, L357P and LR344PC with patented pod shatter reduction (PSR) technology from BASF gives growers the flexibility to consider delayed swathing or straight cutting at harvest. Both options mean pods will fill for a longer period, resulting in larger seeds, a fuller pod and the potential for lower green seed counts. In short, better overall results.

### WHEN TO LATE SWATH

Swathing hastens the drying rate of the crop, ensures even ripening and reduces the possibility of seed losses from wind and hail. After the crop dries to a uniform seed moisture content of 8 – 10% (usually five to 10 days after swathing), it is ready for combining.

Pod shatter reduction hybrids give growers the flexibility to swath later or direct cut. This flexibility means they can swath other varieties at the optimum time and finish by swathing the PSR hybrids on the late side of maturity. This helps manage a large number of acres without starting to swath too early, which can lead to reduced yield and quality.



### ADVANTAGES OF LATE SWATHING

- Maximize yield potential by allowing pods to fill for longer, resulting in larger seeds, fuller pods and lower green seed counts. It also allows the ancillary branches to reach full maturity.
- Reduce timing pressure. Even with big canola acres, growers don't have to swath earlier than recommended, risking significant yield and oil penalties.
- Earlier harvest (eight to 10 days) and more even maturity — particularly important in fields with uneven maturity.
- More flexibility — timing of harvest is not as critical. Canola can be left in the swath for a longer duration than canola that is left standing for straight combining.
- Earlier harvest to avoid fall frost and accelerate dry down, especially in short season areas.
- Earlier harvest to allow for double cropping or fall seeding.
- Quicker dry down — combine earlier, compared to straight combining.
- Reduced shatter losses during the harvest operation— especially in crops infected with alternaria.
- Swathing can be run around the clock (unlike straight cutting) to assist with harvesting a large number of acres.
- Cutting weeds allows a cleaner and drier sample that will reduce the risk of heating in storage and reduce the number of weed seeds that reach maturity.

### DISADVANTAGES OF LATE SWATHING

- Possible fluffy swath — plants that don't roll into a tight swath might lead to swaths being blown around in strong winds, resulting in increased shattering. Losses can be reduced in varieties without the patented pod shatter technology by swathing when the humidity is high, or when heavy dew is present.
- Increased risk of shatter in varieties without the pod shatter.

Many of these risks are significantly reduced by growing InVigor L233P, L234PC, L255P, L340PC, L345PC, L357P and InVigor Choice LR344PC.

## SEED COLOR CHANGE DETERMINES OPTIMUM TIME TO SWATH



**Early Swath**  
30–55%

**Optimum Swath**  
55–65%

**Late Swath**  
65–75%



Main stem



Main stem seeds – top

The seeds in the pods near the top of the main stem on the plant are green but firm. They will not crush when rolled between thumb and forefinger.



Main stem seeds – 1/3 from bottom

The seeds in the pods approximately 1/3 up the plant look like this.

*Note: Seeds with only a hint of color (tan or brown) are considered to be turned.*



Main stem seeds – bottom

Swathing can begin when seeds have mostly turned color and look like this.

The images above reflect when swathing can begin at approximately 60% seed color change.

Examine only pods on the main stem. Seed in pods on the bottom third mature first and will turn color much sooner than seed in the pods of the top third.

When seed in the bottom pods has turned color, the seed in the top will be filled or nearly filled. Canola seed within the pod will change color an average of 10% every two to three days. The change can be faster in hot, dry conditions and takes longer in cool conditions.

Early swathing could come with a yield penalty as compared to a later swath.

## HOW DOES THE POD SHATTER REDUCTION TRAIT WORK?

*Pod drop* indicates the loss of an entire pod from a weakened stem. *Pod shatter* refers to the pre-harvest release of seeds, a natural effect of the dehiscence process during plant reproduction, where the pod seam and connective tissue break apart to release seeds.

The patented pod shatter reduction trait strengthens the pod seam, stem and connective tissue to safely retain the seeds until you are ready to harvest.

Images courtesy of Canola Council of Canada

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