Mark McLean:

So, this is an oat disease nursery where we're screening for red leather leaf, which is a foliar disease of oats, and it starts off from stubble or from seed infection and infects every time we get wet weather. So, this nursery is looking at trying to identify resistant varieties and susceptible varieties, so hopefully in the future we can have more of resistant varieties for growers.

Mark McLean:

So, this is a susceptible oat variety. What we can see when we push the plants aside is that we've got heaps of infection down low. So, we've got the typical red leathery symptoms of red leather leaf, right down low on the plant. And as we look a bit further up, we can see slightly more recent infection working its way back from the tips. So, we've got lots of these characteristic red leathery type leaves, so this is from infection during the winter months. And it's started to creep up to the top of the leaves, but it hasn't quite made it to the top, and that's because it actually slows down during the warmer, drier months of the year.

Mark McLean:

So, this is a moderately susceptible variety, so it's slightly more resistant than the susceptible, which means that it's got less infection on those lower leaves and more green leaf area. So, we see its still got infection on those lower leaves, but it's not as bad as the fully susceptible rated variety. There's a lot more green leaf area, which means that there's a lot less infection, and there'll be less loss.