

**Table S4:** Summary of *C. zeina* genes chosen for RNAi, their roles, and where orthologues have been studied previously.

Gene target	Function of gene product in fungal growth or pathogenicity	References to support choice of gene as a target for gene knockdown
Chitin synthase D gene ( <i>CHSD</i> )	Responsible for the synthesis of chitin (an important polysaccharide component of the fungal cell wall)	Chitin plays a role in immune responses against fungi (Lenardon et al., 2010) <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> chitin synthase b targeted by HIGS (Cheng et al., 2015) <i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i> chitin synthase targeted by HIGS (Andrade et al., 2016)
Phosphatidyl serine decarboxylase proenzyme 3 gene ( <i>PSD3</i> )	Catalysis the formation of phosphatidylethanolamine - a major component of cell membranes	Phosphatidylserine synthesis is essential for viability of the human fungal pathogen <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> (Cassilly and Reynolds, 2018; Konarzewska et al., 2019)
Extracellular protein 2 gene ( <i>ECP2</i> )	Induces necrosis in plants, increasing the pathogenicity of the fungus on its host	ECP2 is an important virulence factor (Laugé et al., 1997; Stergiopoulos et al., 2010)

### References

- Andrade, C.M., Tinoco, M.L.P., Rieth, A.F., Maia, F.C.O. & Aragão, F.J.L. (2016) Host-induced gene silencing in the necrotrophic fungal pathogen *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. *Plant Pathology*, 65, 626–632.
- Cassilly, C.D. & Reynolds, T.B. (2018) PS, it's complicated: the roles of phosphatidylserine and phosphatidylethanolamine in the pathogenesis of *Candida albicans* and other microbial pathogens. *Journal of Fungi*, 4, 28.
- Cheng, W., Song, X.S., Li, H.P., Cao, L.H., Sun, K., Qiu, X.L. et al. (2015) Host-induced gene silencing of an essential chitin synthase gene confers durable resistance to *Fusarium* head blight and seedling blight in wheat. *Plant Biotechnology Journal*, 13, 1335–1345.
- Konarzewska, P., Wang, Y., Han, G.S., Goh, K.J., Gao, Y.G., Carman, G.M. et al. (2019) Phosphatidylserine synthesis is essential for viability of the human fungal pathogen *Cryptococcus neoformans*. *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 294, 2329–2339.
- Lenardon, M.D., Munro, C.A. & Gow, N.A. (2010) Chitin synthesis and fungal pathogenesis. *Current Opinion in Microbiology*, 13, 416–423.
- Laugé, R., Joosten, M.H., Van den Ackerveken, G.F., Van den Broek, H.W. & De Wit, P.J. (1997) The in planta-produced extracellular proteins ECP1 and ECP2 of *Cladosporium fulvum* are virulence factors. *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*, 10, 725–734.
- Stergiopoulos, I., Van Den Burg, H.A., Ökmen, B., Beenen, H.G., van Lieere, S., Kema, G.H. et al. (2010) Tomato Cf resistance proteins mediate recognition of cognate homologous effectors from fungi pathogenic on dicots and monocots. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 107, 7610–7615.