

<p><b>MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL</b></p> <p><b>VIRULENT BLACKLEG IN CANOLA</b></p>	<p><b>Function: Policy No. Effective Date: Supercedes: Amends:</b></p>	<p><b>Agriculture Services ASB.21 March 24, 2021 April 4, 2002 December 16, 2010</b></p>
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**Policy Statement**

The Agricultural Service Board (A.S.B.) shall enforce the Virulent Blackleg in Canola (*Leptosphaeria maculans*) as according to the *Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta* (R.S.A 2000, Chapter A-8), *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations* AR 184/2001, minimizing the impact of Virulent Blackleg of Canola on the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 and the Peace Region.

**Procedure**

- 1) The Agricultural Fieldman shall inspect a minimum, of two Canola fields per township for Virulent Blackleg.
  - b) Any suspected Virulent Blackleg will be sent to an accredited laboratory for confirmation.
  
- 2) If Virulent Blackleg in Canola is found within the boundaries of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133, the landowner will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:
  - a) Harvest the Canola crop with the total crop being sold for crushing or feed but not for seed.
  - b) Tarp any loads of Canola being transported from the infested land.
  - c) Clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land.
  - d) Seed a non-host crop or summer fallow, for 3 consecutive years from initial infestation on land where Virulent Blackleg is Confirmed.
  - e) In the 3 year period volunteer hosts must be also controlled in summer fallow or seeded crops through chemical or mechanical means.
  - f) Landowners within a 1 mile radius shall be contacted, informed of the problem and discouraged from growing Canola.
  - g) Host crops within 5 miles shall be inspected yearly for Virulent Blackleg in Canola.
  - h) The seed source of the infested field shall be traced and any other suspect fields shall be inspected.

- 2) The Agricultural Fieldman shall keep all staff and residences informed of the symptoms of Virulent Blackleg in Canola.
- 3) Awareness should be created for Virulent Blackleg in Canola using handouts, municipal newsletter, social medial, and the Municipal website.