

<p>MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133</p> <p>POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL</p> <p>PEACE REGION</p> <p>CLUBROOT OF CANOLA POLICY</p>	<p>Function:</p> <p>Policy No.</p> <p>Effective Date:</p> <p>Supercedes:</p> <p>Amends:</p>	<p>Agriculture Services</p> <p>ASB.26</p> <p>March 14,2011</p> <p>New</p>
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Policy Statement:

- ❖ To provide direction for the Rural Municipalities of the Peace to prevent the introduction of Clubroot to the Region
- ❖ To specify what steps will be taken if Clubroot is discovered in the Rural Municipalities of the Peace
- ❖ To minimize the impact of Clubroot on the primary producers of the Peace Region.

AUTHORITY:

Clubroot was declared a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta in 2007.

The Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta requires a municipality to "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality" (Sec. 6)

The municipality must appoint Inspectors under the Act who are authorized to:

- ❖ enter onto land and inspect for pests; and may
- ❖ issue notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

ACTION:

Each Peace Region Municipality shall have an appointed Agricultural Fieldman who will act as Inspector under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta (APA). Other personnel may also be appointed as Inspectors.

Inspectors will check a minimum of 25 Canola fields for Clubroot in their Municipality each year. An attempt will be made to ensure these fields are generally spread out throughout the Municipality. Priority of inspection will be given to fields where:

- ❖ the producer is known or believed to be involved in farming land outside the Peace Region

- ❖ the producer has recently purchased farm or earth moving equipment from outside the Peace Region
- ❖ earth moving equipment i.e. pipeline, drilling or service rigs or road construction type equipment from outside the Peace Region has been on the land
- ❖ Inspectors notice Canola which appears to be showing symptoms of Clubroot (wilting, stunting, yellowing and early maturity)

Inspectors will wear disposable boot covers over their footwear when inspecting fields for Clubroot. No vehicles will be permitted to enter onto the field. If an Inspector finds Canola with Clubroot type symptoms, that Inspector is not to enter onto any other lands in the Municipality until his footwear and any tools used can be sterilized using a 1-2% bleach solution.

If Clubroot is found within the boundaries of a Peace Region Municipality, **the landowner will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:**

- ❖ harvest the crop with the canola seed being sold to be crushed, but **not** sold as feed or kept for seed; straw from the crop is to be chopped & spread back onto the field, it is not to be baled or removed
- ❖ tarp any loads being transported from the infested land;
- ❖ clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land, and sterilize implements or the parts of the implement which come directly in contact with the soil using a 1 – 2% bleach solution, for the next 4 years
- ❖ seed a non-host crop and/or perform chemical-fallow, ensuring susceptible mustard family weeds are controlled for 4 or more consecutive years from initial infestation;
- ❖ access to the infested land should be restricted by reasonable measures (ie. Fence off approaches and other accesses)
- ❖ no crops of any kind harvested from the field for the next 4 years will be kept or sold for seed

The Agricultural Fieldman in the Municipality will implement the following:

- ❖ inform the A.S.B. of any Clubroot infections found, and any enforcement actions will be as directed by the A.S.B.
- ❖ all Canola fields which the farmer is known to be involved with shall be inspected (including his own and custom seeding, custom harvest etc.);

- ❖ a notice shall be placed through local form(s) of media advising landowners that Clubroot has been found in the Municipality
- ❖ the Municipality's Agricultural Fieldman shall inform the other Peace Region Fieldmen that Clubroot has been found
- ❖ Per Section 10 of the APA, Pest & Nuisance Control Regulation, landowners & occupants with fields adjacent to the infected field shall be notified that Clubroot has been found, the specific legal description of the field will be given
- ❖ In order to better understand how the disease is introduced and spread, the Municipality will endeavour to gather as much information about the Clubroot infected field as possible, including type & variety of the crop, seed retailer, equipment movement, custom operators used, soil type (esp. pH) and drainage patterns

INSPECTION:

In order to inspect for Clubroot, the Agricultural Fieldman shall:

- ❖ keep staff informed of the symptoms;
- ❖ supervise surveys (if any) according to Alberta Agriculture guidelines;
- ❖ inform farmers of symptoms and, garner their assistance for inspection & sampling purposes

AWARENESS:

In order to raise awareness of the potential problem

- ❖ use available information as handouts, post bulletins at local agricultural businesses
- ❖ publish an article on Clubroot in the local newspaper, radio or Municipal Newsletters
- ❖ cooperate with other rural Municipalities and with local industry to hold or be a part of Clubroot information meetings