



Clubroot

Agriculture Services Policy D19

Policy:	D19 – Clubroot
Policy Department(s):	Agriculture Services
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Policy Purpose

To provide direction for the mitigation of Clubroot within the County of Grande Prairie and identify actions to minimize the impact of Clubroot on agricultural producers.

Policy Statement

The County of Grande Prairie recognizes that Clubroot is a serious disease and is a designated Pest under the Agricultural Pests Act. The County believes a clear and direct approach is required to control the spread of Clubroot in our municipality.

Definitions

“Clubroot” means a serious soilborne disease of canola, mustard and other crops in the brassica (cabbage) family.

“County” means the municipality of the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 having jurisdiction under the Municipal Government Act and other applicable legislation.

“Inspector” means a person appointed as inspector, including an inspector by virtue of office, under section 9 of the Agricultural Pests Act.

“Pest” means an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease declared to be a Pest under section 2 of the Agricultural Pests Act

“Non-host Crop” means any crop that is not in the brassica family which is the canola, mustard and cabbage family.

Policy Guidelines

1. Authority
 - 1.1. Clubroot was declared a Pest under the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) of Alberta in 2007.



- 1.2. 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).
- 1.3. The municipality must appoint Inspectors under the Act who are authorized to enter onto land and inspect for Clubroot.
- 1.4. In the event that Clubroot has been found, the Agricultural Fieldman is required by the APA to issue a notice directing the producer to control Clubroot and prevent it from spreading through a series of designated best management practices specified by the County.
2. Action
 - 2.1. The County will employ an appointed Agricultural Fieldman who will act as Inspector under the (APA).
 - 2.1.1. The Agricultural Fieldman shall employ and train other personnel as Inspectors.
 - 2.1.2. County Council shall appoint the personnel as Inspectors.
3. Inspectors will check a minimum of 100 Canola fields for Clubroot in the 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:
 - 3.1. The producer is known or believed to be involved in farming land outside the Peace Region;
 - 3.2. The producer is known or believed to have recently purchased farm or earth moving equipment from outside the Peace Region;
 - 3.3. 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;
 - 3.4. Inspectors notice Canola which appears to be showing symptoms of Clubroot (wilting, stunting, yellowing and early maturity).
4. Inspectors will wear disposable boot covers over their footwear when inspecting fields for Clubroot. No vehicles will be permitted to enter 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.
5. **If Clubroot is found within the boundaries of the County, the landowner will receive notices as necessary under the Agricultural Pests Act to ensure:**
 - 5.1. A Non-host Crop is grown for at least four (4) consecutive years from the initial infestation ensuring susceptible host plants are controlled each year;



5.1.1. The landowner will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

- 5.1.1.1. Harvest the crop with the canola seed being sold for crushing, 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;
- 5.1.1.2. Tarp any loads being transported from the infested land;
- 5.1.1.3. Clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infected 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; and
- 5.1.1.4. No crops of any kind harvested from the field for the next 4 years are to be kept for reseeding purposes, or sold as seed.

6. The Agricultural Fieldman will implement the following:

- 6.1. Inform the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) of any Clubroot infections found, and any enforcement actions being taken subject to FOIP;
- 6.2. Inspection of all Canola fields which the farmer is known to be involved with (including his own, custom seeding, custom harvest etc.);
- 6.3. Inform the Peace Region Fieldmen as well as Alberta Agriculture and Forestry personnel that Clubroot has been found in the County;
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. To better understand how the disease is introduced and spread, 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 (particularly pH) and drainage patterns.

7. Inspection

- 7.1. To inspect for Clubroot, the Agricultural Fieldman shall:
 - 7.1.1. Keep staff informed of the symptoms;
 - 7.1.2. Supervise surveys (if any) according to Alberta Agriculture and Food guidelines; and
 - 7.1.3. Inform farmers of symptoms and, garner their assistance for inspection and sampling purposes.



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8. Awareness

8.1. To raise awareness of the concerns about Clubroot:

8.1.1. Use available information to advise producers on best management practices and other relevant information about Clubroot.

8.1.2. Cooperate with other rural Municipalities and local industry to hold and participate in Clubroot information meetings.

Attachments

N/A

References

Legal Authorities	Agriculture Pests Act
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, Etc.	Policy B1 – Policy Development
Other	Agriculture Service Board Bylaw

Revision History

Review Date	Description
October 25, 2022	Reviewed and Amended – CM20221025.005
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