

Control of Clubroot Disease in Canola Policy

5A.014

Section: 5.0 Environmental and Protective Services
- A. Agricultural Services

Authority: Council

Statement

The Municipal District of Bonnyville (M.D.) is committed to fulfilling its duties under the Agricultural Pest Act, Section 10(1) which states: *“The local authority of a municipality shall appoint a sufficient number of inspectors to carry out this Act and the regulations within the municipality”*.

Purpose

To establish guidelines for Administration to provide enforcement of the Agricultural Pest Act and fulfil the duties of the legislation by protecting the land and livelihood of agricultural producers within the boundaries of the M.D. to prevent the establishment of and control the spread of Clubroot disease in Canola.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- (1) “Clubroot of Canola” means a disease of cruciferous plants (as canola) caused by a slime mold (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) producing swellings or distortions of the root of the infected plant;
- (2) “Council” means the duly elected Council of the M.D.

Policy

- (1) Random inspections will be conducted within the M.D. by inspectors appointed annually by Council.
- (2) Designated inspectors will follow procedures that are established by Agricultural Services on sampling techniques and protocols for entering private land. Inspectors entering land when testing for Clubroot will wear protective, disposable boot covers, soak all tools in a 2% bleach solution between fields, and park M.D. vehicles on road allowances to avoid entry onto private lands.
- (3) Positive identification of Clubroot shall be obtained through an approved laboratory test.
- (4) When land has been verified positive for Clubroot, the landowner will be notified in person by the M.D. Agricultural Fieldman, or their designate. A “NOTICE TO CONTROL PESTS” will be issued for that field¹.
- (5) The notice will include the restriction on the growth of canola, mustard, or any other susceptible crop to Clubroot on the affected land for a period of two (2) years. It is also recommended to include the use of clubroot-resistant canola varieties in the third year to slow down pathogen population shifts and then alternate growing clubroot-resistance

varieties with different sources of resistance, when they are available. Volunteer canola and cruciferous weeds must be controlled on infested fields before three (3) weeks growth has occurred to prevent the production on new resting spores.

- (6) Any land sown to such a crop in contravention of the terms will be destroyed as per the Agricultural Pest Act.
- (7) All adjacent landowners and/or occupants to the affected land will be notified in writing that Clubroot is present. Requests for legal land locations of infected fields will be disclosed to M.D. residents, Custom Applicators, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Financial Services Corporation, Federal or Provincial Research and any other parties with genuine commercial interests of the affected lands with the exception of the media or press. Release of information in these situations is at the discretion of the M.D. Agricultural Fieldman and Council.
- (8) The landowner and/or occupants of the land will have the responsibility to follow the Best Management Practices set out by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry as well as the guidelines set by the M.D. to reduce the spread of the disease with the movement of soil and equipment.
- (9) Private landowners and industry are responsible for negotiating their own access and sanitation agreements with each other. The M.D. will not get involved in private negotiations unless it is an enforcement issue regarding a positive Clubroot location.
- (10) To mitigate the risk of spread of clubroot when using M.D. owned Agricultural Rental Equipment:
 - (a) A waiver of liability will be signed by the renter for each piece of equipment rented from the M.D.; and
 - (b) Rental equipment will be pressure washed by the M.D. Environmental and Protective Services Department between rentals.

¹ Taken from: Agricultural Pests Act, Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation FORM 2 (Section 6(1)).

Policy Review

Within five (5) years from date adopted / amended / reviewed.

For administrative use only:

Previous Policy Number: (prior to July 24, 2019)	60.63.13
Related Documentation: (plans, bylaws, policies, procedures, etc.)	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – Clubroot Management Plan