

POLICY #:	AG 015	POLICY TITLE:	Control of Clubroot Disease
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APPROVAL DATE AND MOTION:	January 30, 2024 (2024-01-52)	CROSS-REFERENCE:	AG 006 Agricultural Pest and Nuisance Control; Alberta Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000 C A-8; Alberta Agricultural Pests Act Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation AR 184/2001
RESPONSIBILITY:	Director of Agriculture and Environment, Agriculture and Environment	APPENDICES:	
APPROVER:	Council	EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 27, 2008
REVISION DATE(S)/ MOTION #	May 27, 2008 (99-05-08); September 13, 2011 (14-09-11), September 26, 2017 (2017-09-113), February 13, 2018 (2018-11-12) June 24, 2025 (2025-06-46)	NEXT REVIEW DATE:	To be reviewed annually

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.a. Agricultural Pests Act: Refers to the Province of *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act* RSA 2000 C A-8.
- 1.b. Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation: Refers to the Province of *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act* Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation AR 084-2001.

- 1.c. Clubroot of canola: A long-lived disease of Brassica crops (including canola and mustard) caused by the soil borne pathogen *Plasmodiophora brassicae*.
- 1.d. Land: For this policy, Land refers to the entire field area managed as a single crop production unit, regardless of size.
- 1.e. Management Strategy: Management Strategy is a crop management plan, mutually agreed upon and signed by the landowner/land manager and the Agricultural Fieldman, that ensures canola or other susceptible crops will not be grown on the Land for the next two years (1 in 3 year rotation). Other industry acceptable management options may also be included. A Pest Notice, followed by enforcement if necessary, will be used if the Management Strategy is not followed as agreed upon.
- 1.f. Pest Notice: Pest Notice is a legal notice in writing directed to the owner or occupant of the land or property setting out the legal description of the land affected, naming the pest, specifying the measures to be taken to control the pest and requiring the measures to be taken within a specified period of time as directed by the Agricultural Pests Act. As per the Act, if the owner/occupant to whom the notice is served fails to comply with the notice and the appeal period has expired, the inspector may carry out the control measures in the notice to control or destroy the pest. The expenses incurred to enforce the notice will be charged to the owner of the land.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.a. This policy provides direction on how the County of Vermilion River will control the spread of Clubroot of canola, a designated pest under the Agricultural Pests Act, within the boundaries of the County.

3. OBJECTIVE

- 3.a. The County of Vermilion River recognizes that Clubroot of canola is a serious problem and a designated pest under the Agricultural Pests Act in Alberta. The County of Vermilion River will take active measures to control the spread of Clubroot within the boundaries of the County. This policy established clear guidelines to minimize the spread and buildup of Clubroot in crop lands within the County.

- 3.b. The County's goal is to minimize the spread and buildup of Clubroot in cropland through education and awareness. In addition, the County will strive to minimize economic losses by working with agricultural producers to manage Clubroot on confirmed fields within the County of Vermilion River.
- 3.c. This Policy provides guidelines and procedures for the inspection, confirmation, and enforcement processes under the authority of the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta for cropland within the County of Vermilion River.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Management of Clubroot on Cropland

- 4.a. Random inspections of canola fields will be conducted annually during the growing season by the Agricultural Fieldman, or by an Inspector appointed by the County of Vermilion River.
- 4.b. Inspectors will follow procedures set out by County of Vermilion River Agriculture and Environment Department on proper sampling techniques and protocol for entering land.
- 4.c. Positive survey results for an individual field with no prior history of Clubroot will be confirmed by a laboratory test. If a positive lab test is found a second lab test will be conducted for guarantee.
- 4.d. When land is confirmed to be infected with Clubroot, the landowner will receive written notification. The landowner and the Agricultural Fieldman will then work together to develop a Management Strategy aimed at controlling the infestation within the affected field and preventing the spread of Clubroot to surrounding areas.
 - 4.d.i. The Management Strategy will restrict the growth of canola, mustard, or any other crop susceptible to Clubroot for the following two years using a 1 in 3 year crop rotation.
 - 4.d.ii. After two consecutive years of growing non-host crops, Clubroot-resistant varieties of canola or other non-susceptible crops may be reintroduced into the crop rotation.
 - 4.d.iii. When an infection is found, the grain of the crop may be harvested, but all plant residues from the crop shall not be retained for further use or moved off the property. Future crop residues will be dealt with at the time the notice is issued or as

- agreed upon by the landowner and Agricultural Fieldman.
- 4.d.iv. The landowner and/or occupants of the land will have the responsibility to follow best management guidelines set out by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation to reduce the spread of the disease with the movement of soil and equipment. This may include use of Clubroot resistant varieties, cleaning of equipment and controlling access to the land.
 - 4.d.v. Subsequent non-host crops are to be treated with a herbicide registered for control of cruciferous weeds, which may act as alternate hosts.
 - 4.e. A legal notice under Alberta's *Agricultural Pests Act* may be issued at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman if the Clubroot infestation is not effectively addressed.
 - 4.e.i. A person who has an interest in the infected land as an owner or occupant and feels personally aggrieved by a notice issued by an Inspector under section 12 of the *Agricultural Pest Act*, may appeal in writing to the local authority of County of Vermilion River within ten (10) days of the notice.
 - 4.e.ii. Any land sown to such a crop in contravention of the terms of a written notice will be destroyed as per the *Agricultural Pest Act*.
 - 4.f. Legal land locations of fields testing positive for Clubroot within the County of Vermilion River will be posted on the County of Vermilion River website annually in the fall after confirmation.
 - 4.g. Legal land locations of all fields surveyed for Clubroot by the County of Vermilion River will be published on the County of Vermilion River website annually.
 - 4.h. All adjacent landowners to the affected land will be notified in writing that Clubroot is present. Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) and Research staff may also be given the location of affected lands. All other inquiries for the location of Clubroot infected land will be directed to the County of Vermilion River website or subject to a formal Freedom of Information and Protection (FOIP) request.

5. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE/TASK	TITLE(S) OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE
HANDLING INQUIRIES	Agricultural Fieldman
MONITORING REVIEWS AND REVISIONS	Agricultural Fieldman
IMPLEMENTING POLICY	Agricultural Fieldman
COMMUNICATING POLICY	Agricultural Fieldman
INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	Council and all Staff
EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	Landowners and General Public

6. EXCEPTIONS

6.a. None identified.

7. POLICY EVALUATION

7.a. The County of Vermilion River will review this policy annually, or earlier if the need is identified.