

Clubroot of Canola Policy

Subject: Clubroot

Ref: ASB

CODE: 63

Date Approved: May 26, 2015

Motion No: 844/26/05/15

Replaces: 09/25/11/22

The County of Northern Lights supports the enforcement of the Agricultural Pest Act (APA) to prevent the establishment of or to control or destroy Clubroot of Canola within our County.

Clubroot of Canola is a serious soil-borne disease caused by *Plasmodiophora brassicae*. It is a serious threat to the Canola industry by reducing yields, it reduces the quantity and quality of the oil produced from the seeds and the spores can remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years.

Clubroot was declared a pest to Alberta under the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) in 2007. Section 6 of the APA states that: a local authority shall take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or to control or destroy pests in the municipality.

Chief Elected Official

Chief Administrative Officer

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To administer, direct and enforce the APA for Clubroot of Canola in an equitable, consistent and effective manner within the financial and human constraints of the County.
- 1.2 To protect agricultural land from the infestation of Clubroot of Canola.
- 1.3 To inspect Canola fields in the County for the presence of Clubroot.

2.0 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Will provide direction, supervision and resources to the Agricultural Fieldman for carrying out this policy.

3.0 AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Is the Pest Inspector for the County under the Agricultural Pests Act.
- 3.2 Will supervise, direct and be responsible for other Council appointed municipal Pest Inspectors.
- 3.3 Will be solely responsible for the issuance and enforcement of Notice to Control Pests.

4.0 PEST INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 Will follow the Clubroot Inspection Procedures as determined by the Agricultural Fieldman.
- 4.2 Will carry out a minimum of 50 annual inspections in seeded canola fields within the county. Priority will be placed on, inspecting fields known to have tight rotations and in high traffic areas.

5.0 PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 An individual shall not knowingly perpetuate the propagation, spread and establishment of Clubroot within the County, under Section 5 pertaining to the APA.
- 5.2 The County requires that any equipment or materials (construction, oil & gas exploration, tillage, seeding and harvesting equipment) which disturbs or otherwise comes into contact with the soil outside the County be cleaned of all soil and crop

residues prior to entering the County. All individuals must adhere to the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan if entering the County from a known infested area.

5.2.1 If coming from a known infested area or suspected of being contaminated with Clubroot, Individuals/Contractors must clean equipment per the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan and contact the County to have all equipment inspected before commencing work. The Agricultural Fieldman, under Section 4 of the APA, will enforce a detention order until equipment is cleaned to a satisfactory level.

6.0 ENFORCEMENT

6.1 A Notice to Control Pests will be issued to the Landowner/Occupant/Individual only upon the confirmation of Clubroot on their land/equipment via a laboratory analysis.

6.2 The Notice to Control Pests may prohibit the growth of Canola crops for a period of four years.

6.3 Landowner/Occupant contravention of a Notice to Control Pests will result in the destruction of the Canola crop.

6.4 A stop order may be issued to Individuals suspected of being in violation of the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan and the APA, under Section 20.

6.4.1 A person who contravenes this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$5000 and in default of payment to a term of imprisonment of not more than 60 days.

7.0 NOTIFICATION OF INFESTATION

7.1 As per Section 10 of the APA Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, a letter may be sent to all adjacent landholders notifying them of the legal land location of the Clubroot infestation as well as general information and recommendations for the prevention and control of Clubroot.

8.0 RECOVERY OF EXPENSES

8.1 Non-compliance of a Notice to Control Pests will result in the recovery of all expenses to the County during enforcement under Section 19 of the APA.