



# POLICY # AG 015

## CONTROL OF CLUBROOT DISEASE

DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>	99-05-08 (May 27, 2008)
<b>REVISION DATE (s):</b>	14-09-1; 2017-09-113 ; 2018-06-17; 2018-06-12; 2018-11-13
<b>REVIEW DATE (s):</b>	

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## POLICY STATEMENT

The County of Vermilion River recognizes that Clubroot of Canola is a serious problem and supports controlling the spread of Clubroot which is a designated pest under the *Agriculture Pest Act*.

## PURPOSE

To establish clear guidelines for the prevention of Clubroot. Prevention of Clubroot requires all landowners, tenants and participants in the crops and energy industries to be vigilant. Preventing introduction of Clubroot to clean fields is the only way to prevent Clubroot because there are currently no economically viable options for controlling Clubroot in canola once it is established in a field.

## DEFINITIONS

**Land:** For this policy, Land refers to the entire field area managed as a single crop production unit, regardless of size.

**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 clubroot 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.

## POLICY

### Management of Clubroot on Crop Land

1. Random inspections of canola will be conducted annually during the growing season by the Agricultural Fieldman, or by an Inspector appointed by the County of Vermilion River.
2. Inspectors will follow procedures set out by County of Vermilion River Agriculture Department on proper sampling techniques and protocol for entering land.
3. Positive identification of Clubroot shall be obtained by a laboratory test done by a qualified laboratory.
4. When land has been verified positive for Clubroot the landowner will be notified in writing and a management strategy to address the Clubroot infestation within the field and minimize the spread of Clubroot to surrounding areas will be decided upon by the landowner and Agricultural Fieldman.
5. 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.
6. The notice will prohibit the growth of canola, mustard or any other crop susceptible to Clubroot for a period of 2 years (1 in 3 rotation). Following 2 non-host crop years Clubroot-resistant varieties of canola or other non-susceptible crops may be re-introduced into the crop rotation.
7. When an infection is found, the current crop may be harvested, but all 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.
8. Subsequent non-host crops are to be treated with a herbicide registered for control of cruciferous weeds, which may act as alternate hosts.
9. 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 days of the notice.
10. 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*.
11. All adjacent landowners and/or occupants 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.

12. 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.
13. Legal land locations of all fields tested for Clubroot by the County of Vermilion River will be published on the County of Vermilion River website annually.
14. The landowner and/or occupants of the land will have the responsibility to follow best management guidelines set out by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to reduce the spread of the disease with the movement of soil and equipment. This may include use of Clubroot resistant varieties.
15. Equipment and Sanitation – A sanitation program for Clubroot involves three consecutive steps that increase efficacy at the expense of additional time and labour. The appropriate level of cleaning will be affected by the potential for equipment to become contaminated and the risk adversity of the producer.

Step 1 – Remove as much soil as possible from the machine by scraping or knocking off the larger clumps of soil and using compressed air to remove dust and plant debris.

Step 2 - Remove any residual soil with a pressure washer, compressed air, or steaming unit.

Step 3 – Apply a disinfectant mist to the clean surface (1-2% active ingredient bleach solution).

Note: The above steps have been recommended by the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee. Private landowners and industry are responsible for negotiating their own access and sanitation agreements and the municipality will not get involved in private negotiations unless it is an enforcement issue regarding a positive Clubroot location.

### **Equipment Cleaning Protocol**

1. Anyone entering or working upon agricultural land will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing equipment to reduce the spread of disease with the movement of soil and equipment and will accept the risk of improper cleaning. Following best management guidelines from *Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Best Management Practices: Clubroot Disease Management, July 2008* is recommended.
2. Within the County of Vermilion River, the following sanitation steps should be considered the minimum requirement according to the following situations:
  - a. Any equipment entering the Municipality must be free of soil and plant debris and be cleaned by pressure washing, steaming or compressed air (steps 1 and 2 above).
  - b. Any equipment moving within the Municipality must be free of soil and plant debris (step 1 above).

However, if Clubroot is identified within the municipality the minimum requirements of steps 1 and 2 will apply if equipment has been within a Clubroot positive field.

The County of Vermilion River shall review this policy on an annual basis.

**References**

*Alberta Clubroot Management Committee, 2008.*

*Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (BMP)*

*Alberta Clubroot Management Plan, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development*