



## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PEACE NO. 135

**PREPARED BY:** Nasar Iqbal

**ADOPTED BY:**

**NUMBER:** ASB – 10

**REVISED BY:** Nasar Iqbal

COUNCIL

**SUPERSEDES:**

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**TITLE: Clubroot of Canola Policy**

April 28, 2014 Revised: Feb 27, 2020

### PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

To keep the Municipal District of Peace No. 135 Clubroot free

### POLICY STATEMENT:

#### A. Objective:

- To help prevent the introduction of Clubroot to the MD of Peace No. 135 and to the region
- To specify what steps will be taken if Clubroot is discovered in the MD.
- To minimize the spread of Clubroot
- To minimize the impact of Clubroot on the primary producers of the MD.

#### B. Authority:

Clubroot was declared a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta in 2007.

1. 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).
2. The municipality must appoint Inspectors under the Act who are authorized to:
  - a. enter onto land and inspect for pests, and may
  - b. issue notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

#### C. Action:

1. The MD of Peace No.135 will employ Manager of Agricultural Services /Agricultural Fieldman who will act as Inspector under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta (APA). Other personnel may also be appointed as Inspectors.
2. Inspectors will check a minimum of 25 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. A priority of inspection will be given to fields where:
  - a. the land has been identified as being farmed in a short rotation i.e. Canola on Canola rotation.
  - b. the producer is known or believed to be involved in farming outside the MD.
  - c. the producer has recently purchased farm or earth moving equipment outside the MD.



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- d. earth moving equipment i.e. pipeline, drilling or service rigs or road construction type equipment from outside the MD of Peace No.135 has been on the land.
  - e. Inspectors notice Canola which appears to be showing symptoms of Clubroot (wilting, stunting, yellowing and early maturity).
3. Inspectors will wear disposable boot covers over their footwear when inspecting suspect 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 into any other lands in the Municipality until his footwear and any tools used can be sterilized using a 2% bleach solution.
- a. Plant and/or soil samples in suspected or on equipment of concern will be submitted to a commercial laboratory for analysis. Chain of custody steps will be taken to ensure that no tampering or contamination of samples takes place.
4. The municipality requires that any equipment or materials (construction, oil & gas exploration, tillage, seeding & spraying) which disturb or otherwise comes into contact with the soil outside of the MD, be cleaned of all soil prior to entering the MD. If the equipment was last used or staged in an area known to be infested with Clubroot, that it also be disinfected using the methods noted in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan.
5. If Clubroot is found within the boundaries of the MD of Peace No. 135, **the landowner and or the occupant will receive notices as necessary under the Agricultural Pest Act for 3 consecutive years following the year of discovery requiring that:**
- a. a non-host crop is grown, or chemical fallow is performed ensuring susceptible host plants are controlled each year. Clubroot Resistant Canola varieties are considered a host crop, and as such cannot be grown in the rotation sooner than 3 years after the discovery of Clubroot.
  - b. any crop residue and soil be cleaned from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infected land and then sterilized using a sterilant recommended in the Clubroot Management Plan.



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**Further, the landowner and or occupant will be advised to adopt the following measures:**

- there should be a three-year break between canola crops.
- harvest the crop with the canola seed being sold to be crushed, but not sold as a feed or kept for seed; straw from the crop is to be chopped and spread back onto the field, it is not to be baled or removed.
- tarp any loads being transported from the infested field.
- seed an area to grass around field approaches so equipment and vehicle can be parked and cleaned while minimizing contamination.
- destroy all-volunteer canola and mustard family weeds, control efforts may be needed multiple times during every growing season to ensure plants susceptible to Clubroot are not allowed to live up to or beyond 6 weeks of growth. Plant species of particular concern are listed in **Appendix 1** of this policy.
- inform any contractor or custom operator who may either on to the land Clubroot has been found on the property and advise them to properly clean and disinfect any equipment which comes into contact with the soil.

The Manager of Agricultural Services/Agricultural Fieldman will implement the following:

1. inform the ASB of any Clubroot infections found, and any enforcement actions will be as directed by the ASB
2. all Canola fields which the farmer is known to be involved with shall be inspected (including his own and custom seeding, custom harvest, etc.)- a notice shall be placed in a local paper, MD website and Facebook advising landowners that Clubroot has been found in the Municipality.
3. inform the other Peace Region Fieldmen as well as Alberta Agriculture and Forestry personnel that Clubroot has been found in the MD.



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In order to better understand how the disease is introduced and spread, the Municipality will:

1. endeavor to gather as much information about the Clubroot infected field as possible, including type and variety of the crop, seed retailer, equipment movement, custom operators used, soil type (especially pH) and drainage patterns.
2. following the 3-year period of no-host crops, encourage the use of Clubroot resistant varieties, rotation of Clubroot resistant varieties on known infested fields using 1 in 4, or longer rotation to prevent the buildup of Clubroot spores in the soil.)

**If an owner or occupant fails to abide by a Pest Notice, as a last resort, the Manager of Agricultural Services may carry out the measures described in the notice and shall destroy the planted crop through chemical means, so as to prevent soil disturbance and movement. If the owner/occupier has not done so to the Manager of Agricultural Services' satisfaction, invoice shall be issued to owner/occupant for all expenses incurred including the labor, chemical and equipment cost of the crop destruction.**

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**


Section 10 of the APA, Pest, and Nuisance Control Regulation states: An inspector who finds on-premises evidence of infestation in any crop may notify person engaged in the growing, transporting or processing of any crop that may be affected by the infestation, or an organization representing them, of the infestation, including the location of those premises and the name of their occupants if the inspector considers such notification necessary or advisable with a view to preventing the spread of or controlling the infestation.

After the landowner ( and occupant if known) of a property has been informed that clubroot has been positively identified, the specific field location will be noted on a map in the MD of Peace Administration building open to public viewing. The map will show the legal land descriptions, but not landowner names.

**D. Inspection:**

In order to inspect for Clubroot, the Manager of Agricultural Services shall:

1. keep staff informed of the symptoms

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2. supervise surveys (if any) according to Alberta Agriculture guidelines
3. inform farmers of symptoms and garner their assistance for inspection and sampling purposes.

**E. Education and Awareness:**

In order to raise awareness of Clubroot and Proper Management Practices:

- use available information as handouts, post bulletins at local agricultural businesses
- cooperate with other rural Municipalities, ARA’s and with local industry to hold or be a part of Clubroot information meetings.
- refer producers and industry personnel to the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan for detailed information on methods to prevent the spread, as well as methods to deal with infestations once Clubroot is established.
- recommend proper management practices including the use of crop rotation and Clubroot resistant varieties to prevent spore level increases.
- inform producers regarding equipment sanitation to prevent introduction- both of farm equipment being added to farm fleet, custom work being done, and neighbor helping neighbor situations.
- inform producers of their need to request oil and gas exploration, utility operators, hunters, ATV enthusiasts and all persons requesting land access of the need to clean and sanitize equipment prior to leaving their area of origin.

MD of Peace No. 135 Council make it known that the Clubroot of Canola Policy is under constant review, as new information comes to light it will be amended in order to provide the best protection of our agricultural production.



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**Appendix 1 - Clubroot Carrying Weed Species<sup>1</sup>**

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Brassica napus</i>	All-Volunteer Canola
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Horseradish, Red Cole
<i>Brassica hirta</i>	White Mustard
<i>Brassica kaber</i>	Wild Mustard
<i>Camelina sativa</i>	False Flex
<i>Camelina microcarpa</i>	Small Seeded False Flex
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse
<i>Rorippa islandica</i>	Marsh Cress
<i>Rorippa Sylvestris</i>	Creeping Yellow Cress, Yellow Field Cress
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	Tumbling Mustard
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	Stinkweed
<i>Descurainia Sophia</i>	Flixweed, Tansy Mustard
<i>Lepidium densiflorum</i>	Common Peppergrass
<i>Neslia paniculate</i>	Ball Mustard
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket
<i>Erysium cheiranthoides</i>	Wormseed Mustard
<p><b>The non-brassica plants on the Canadian Prairies susceptible to infection by P. Brassicae.</b>  <sup>1</sup>Clubroot Carrying Weed Species. (n.d.) Adapted from  <a href="https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/plant-diseases/clubroot-brassica.html">https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/plant-diseases/clubroot-brassica.html</a></p>	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent Grass
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchard Grass
<i>Fragaria spp.</i>	Strawberry
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye Grass
<i>Papavera rhoeas</i>	Corn Poppy
<i>Rumex spp.</i>	Dock



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