



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PEACE NO. 135

PREPARED BY: Nasar Iqbal	ADOPTED BY:	NUMBER: ASB – 9
REVISED BY: Nasar Iqbal	COUNCIL	SUPERSEDES: Page 1 of 2
TITLE: Virulent Blackleg in Canola Policy		DATE: April 28, 2014 Revised Feb.27, 2020

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY:

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

POLICY STATEMENT:

A. Objective:

- To set, plainly, the steps required for a Municipality to control an outbreak of Virulent Blackleg in Canola.

B. Authority:

- Virulent Blackleg is a pest under the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta (1984).
- The Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta authorizes Municipal Inspectors to:
 - i. enter onto land and inspect for pests;
 - ii. issue a notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.
 - iii. when Virulent Blackleg is found in significant levels in the municipality, the ag ser manager shall take action at his discretion.

C. Action:

1. If Virulent Blackleg of Canola is found at significant levels within the Municipal District of Peace No.135, the Manager of Agricultural Services will take the following measures at his discretion:
 - a. harvest the Canola crop with the total crop being sold for crushing or feed but not for seed;
 - b. tarp any loads of Canola being transported from the infested land;
 - c. clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before leaving the infested land;
 - d. incorporate residue in the fall unless soil erosion is a concern;
 - e. be convinced or forced by law to seed a non-host crop or to perform summer fallow, for 4 years from initial infestation; in the 4 year period, volunteer hosts must be controlled in summer fallow or seeded crops through chemical or mechanical means;
 - f. following the 4th year the landowner may return to Canola;
 - g. it is imperative that if a host crop is seeded on the infested land prior to the 4 year period
 - h. expiring, then a Notice to Destroy the Crop and the Virulent Blackleg shall be issued and enforced if ignored;
 - i. producers will be encouraged to grow Blackleg resistant varieties;



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- j. the seed source of the infested field shall be traced and any other suspect fields shall be inspected;
- k. Spraying if required; and
- l. Virulent Blackleg infested crops which are proven to be first-year can be harvested safely for feed or crushing; however, if it can be verified that ascospores are present then the Canola crop must be destroyed.

D. Inspection:

- 1. In order to inspect for Virulent Blackleg:
 - a. keep staff informed of the symptoms;
 - b. perform surveys according to Alberta Agriculture guidelines at the early flowering stage or after swathing
 - c. inform farmers of symptoms and, through increased knowledge, garner their assistance for inspection purposes.

E. Awareness:

- 1. In order to raise awareness of the problem:
 - a. use available information as handouts;
 - b. inform Peace Region Seed Outlets of our concerns and request Canola seed not be brought into the area, if possible, especially from infested areas (Saskatchewan, Regions III & IV).
 - c. the Fieldman shall write to each seed outlet in his municipality and express these concerns yearly.
 - d. assist and encourage area seed plants to set and follow policies to accept only Canola that is certified Virulent Blackleg free.
 - e. the Agricultural Service Board shall be kept informed of Policy and programs and will serve as information ambassadors to keep Virulent Blackleg out of the Peace.