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Policy Title Clubroot of Canola	Date: April 13, 2021	Resolution No. RC21-195

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a management plan to prevent/or minimize the spread and impact of Clubroot in Canola within Birch Hills County. Birch Hills County's Council recognizes that Clubroot of Canola is declared a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta and is a concern to agricultural producers within the County. Council further recognizes that it is beneficial to the agricultural industry to 'take active measures to prevent the establishment of, control or destroy pests in the municipality' (Sec. 6, *Agricultural Pests Act* R.S.A 2000 A-8).

DEFINITIONS

Agricultural Pests Act:

The *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (184/2001) including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.

Agricultural Service Board (ASB):

Appointed by Birch Hills County's Council to address agricultural concerns.

Alberta Clubroot Management Plan:

As set forth by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

Clubroot of Canola ("Clubroot"):

A serious soil-borne disease caused by *Plasmodiophora brassicae*. It poses a serious threat to the Canola industry by reducing yields, reducing the quantity and quality of the oil produced from the seeds and the spores can remain viable twenty (20) years or more according to current research.

Control:

To manage the spread of the disease to a level that does not hinder production or infest any land that is not infested and/or manage or destroy the disease as deemed acceptable by the Pest Inspector and this Policy.

County:

The municipal corporation of Birch Hills County having jurisdiction under the Municipal Government Act and other applicable legislation.

Crop Residue:

Material left in an agricultural field after the crop has been harvested.



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Cruciferous Plants:

A plant which includes: canola/rapeseed and mustard as well as the cabbage family (broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower, chinese cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, radish, rutabaga and turnip).

Destroy:

To kill all growing parts or to render reproductive mechanisms non-viable.

Director of Agriculture (DOA) (Agricultural Fieldman (AF)):

Appointed as such through motion by Birch Hills County's Council and by virtue of position (*Agricultural Service Board Act*) acts as a pest Inspector.

Geographic Area:

An area of land under the jurisdiction of Birch Hills County.

Infested:

Any property containing Clubroot of Canola.

Notice:

A legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline, and outlining acceptable control options issued by a Pest Inspector under section 12 of the *Agricultural Pest Act*.

Period of Restriction:

A period of time during which a cruciferous crop may not be planted and grown.

Pest:

An animal, bird, insect, plant or disease declared a pest under section two of the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

Pest Inspector:

An Inspector appointed by Birch Hills County or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the regulations.

Producer:

Farm operator.



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Soil Disturbance:

Anything that can or may move soil, including but not limited to equipment and weather.

Suspected Field:

Any field for which it has displayed symptoms or signs of Clubroot of Canola.

POLICY

1. AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The County's Council shall appoint Pest Inspectors (as per section 10 of the *Agricultural Pests Act*).
- 1.2 The Agricultural Fieldman, under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, is by virtue of that office, an inspector under the *Agriculture Pests Act*.
- 1.3 The DOA shall establish protocols to be followed by Pest Inspectors for inspections, sampling techniques, and for entering land. These procedures shall be designed to minimize the potential for Clubroot Spore transferal between fields by Inspectors and will follow the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan.

2. DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

- 2.1 In the event that a sample from a suspected field returns as positive for Clubroot of Canola (DNA analysis), the DOA shall:
 - 2.1.1 Inform the Agricultural Service Board and the County's Council of the discovery and of any enforcement actions taken;
 - 2.1.2 Destroy crops growing in non-compliance that received a Notice, attached, at the landowner's and/or occupant's expense;
 - 2.1.3 Should enforcement be required, the County's administrative fees will be charged at 15% of the cost of enforcement.



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- 2.2 If the producer is operating on lands other than his own, a release of information form shall be signed by the registered landowner before there is correspondence with the producer.
- 2.3 For research purposes only, canola and other cruciferous crops may be permitted to be grown on lands where a Notice has been issued with respect to Clubroot of Canola on lands, provided that pre-approval has been granted by the DOA within his/her sole discretion.
- 2.4 Ensure that all Canola fields with which the landowner(s) and/or occupant(s) known to be involved with are inspected (including but not limited to the following; landowner(s) and/or occupants(s) own field(s), custom seeding, custom harvest);
- 2.5 Ensure the landowner(s) and/or occupant(s) receive written notification attached through registered mail or delivery in person and are requested to follow the best Management Guidelines in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan;
- 2.6 Advise other Peace Region Agricultural Fieldmen as well as appropriate provincial departments that Clubroot has been found within The County;
 - 2.6.1 At the written request of a Fieldman from a neighboring municipality, the specific legal location of a Clubroot infested quarter will be shared if the landowner farms land in both municipalities. This information will be released to the Fieldman only in strict confidentiality and if they agree in writing that the information will be used only for the elimination or protection against Clubroot infestation.
- 2.7 All landowners and/or occupants within a one (1) mile radius of the field where Clubroot was confirmed, will be sent written notice that Clubroot was confirmed within one (1) mile of their property. Additional information, such as the Alberta Clubroot management Plan, Clubroot of Canola Policy and Clubroot Identification Information may be included;



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- 2.8 In order to better understand how the disease was introduced and spread, an endeavor will be made 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 (esp. pH) and drainage patterns.
- 2.9 The DOA will provide information and education to landowners and/or occupants regarding the spread of Clubroot of Canola.
- 2.10 The County will advocate that all seed (of host crop) should be Clubroot resistant variety and should be treated with a registered fungicide that includes the genus for Clubroot of Canola on the label list of controlled fungi, particularly if from an out of province or unknown source.

3. CONTROL

- 3.1 Annually, the DOA shall schedule inspections of Canola fields within the County. In preparing this inspection schedule, the Agricultural Fieldman shall use the following criteria:
 - 3.1.1 The fields inspected shall be distributed across the geographic area of the County.
 - 3.1.2 Priority of inspections will be given to fields where:
 - 3.1.2.1 The producer is known or believed to be involved in farming outside the County;
 - 3.1.2.2 Inspector's notice Canola which appears to be showing symptoms of Clubroot (wilting, stunting, yellowing and early maturity);
 - 3.1.2.3 When earth moving equipment (i.e. pipeline, drilling, service rigs or road construction equipment) suspected to be from outside of the Peace Region has been actively operated on the land;



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- 3.1.2.4 The property previously has Clubroot documented and verified through DNA analysis;
- 3.1.2.5 All fields within one (1) mile radius of any field where Clubroot of Canola was confirmed, and any fields associated with the operator(s) of any fields where Clubroot of Canola was confirmed.
- 3.2 The landowner(s) and/or occupant(s) of lands confirmed with Clubroot shall be required to adopt the following control measures:
 - 3.2.1 The crop shall be harvested, and the canola seed shall be sold for crushing, but **not** sold for feed or seed, and shall **not** be retained for reseeding;
 - 3.2.2 Crop residue shall be chopped and evenly spread back onto the infected land, not baled or removed;
 - 3.2.3 Any seed load transported from the infested land shall be securely covered (tarp);
 - 3.2.4 Soil disturbance on infected land must be minimized to prevent movement to uninfected land;
 - 3.2.5 Any crop residue and soil must be cleaned from all equipment and implements and left on the land before taking equipment off the infected land;
 - 3.2.6 Implements, or parts thereof, which come directly into contact with the soil should be sterilized, as per Appendix 1 and 2 of the Alberta Management Plan.
 - 3.2.7 No Clubroot susceptible crops (cruciferous plants) including Clubroot Resistant Canola varieties shall be seeded for a period of three (3) consecutive years following the year which Clubroot test result is positive. Should the producer on the infected land plant canola regardless of positive testing, the DOA shall;
 - 3.2.7.1 Issue a Notice to the producer as per the *Agricultural Pest Act*.



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3.2.7.2 If a producer fails to abide by the Notice, the DOA shall destroy the planted crop through chemical means, so as to prevent soil disturbance and movement. Should the County destroy the crop, an invoice shall be issued to the producer for the labour, chemical and equipment costs of the crops destruction.

3.2.7.3 Should enforcement be required, additional administrative fee will be charged at 15% of the cost of enforcement.

3.2.8 After the 3 year restriction, canola may be seeded, using only Clubroot resistant varieties and, rotating the resistant variety with each subsequent planting.

3.2.9 Host plants of the clubroot pathogen, as listed in the Alberta Management Plan, and volunteer canola shall be destroyed from within crops on the infested lands, for the period of three (3) consecutive years following the year in which a Clubroot test result is positive;

3.2.10 The landowner must inform any contractors or custom operations who may enter onto the land that Clubroot has been found on the property, and advise them to properly clean and disinfect any equipment which comes into contact with the soil.

3.2.11 The landowner(s) and/or occupant(s) of the land who are disturbing the soil will have the responsibility to follow the Best Management Guidelines that are laid out in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan to reduce the spread of the disease with the movement of soil and equipment.

4.0 REPEAL

Any previous policies related to Clubroot in Canola are here by repealed.



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APPENDIX

1. The Alberta Clubroot Management Plan, and any amendments thereto.
2. Letter to Landowner(s) – Written Notification
3. Letter to Adjacent Landowner(s) – Written Notification
4. Notice – Form 2 from *Agriculture Pest Act*
5. Clubroot Release of Information Form

Original to be signed by

Gerald Manzulenko
Reeve

Original to be signed by

Rick Bastow
Chief Administrative Officer



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Adopted by Council:	March 1, 2018
Updated:	