

Title: CLUBROOT OF CANOLA

Policy No: 6308

Effective Date: October 26, 2020

Motion Number: 20.10.575

Supersedes Policy No: NA

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Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish a management plan to prevent and/or minimize the spread and impact of Clubroot in Greenview. Greenview 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 municipality. 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, Chapter A-8).

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **Manager of Agriculture Services** means the individual appointed as such through motion by Greenview Council and by virtue of position (*Agricultural Service Board Act*) who acts as a Pest Inspector.
- 1.2. **Agricultural Pests Act** means the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act* (R.S.A. 200, Chapter A-8) and the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (184/2001) including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.
- 1.3. **Agricultural Service Board** means the Board appointed by Greenview Council to address agricultural concerns.
- 1.4. **Alberta Clubroot Management Plan** means the plan to manage clubroot of canola as set forth by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.
- 1.5. **Clubroot of Canola ("Clubroot")** means the serious soil-borne disease caused by *Plasmodiophora brassicae*.
- 1.6. **Control** means to destroy or manage the disease through measures deemed acceptable by the Pest Inspector and this Policy.
- 1.7. **Crop Residue** means the material left in an agricultural field after the crop has been harvested.
- 1.8. **Cruciferous Plants** means a plant family which includes; canola/rapeseed and mustard, as well as the cabbage family (broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, radish, rutabaga and turnip).

- 1.9. **Destroy** means to kill all growing parts or to render reproductive mechanisms non-viable.
- 1.10. **Geographic Area** means an area of land under the jurisdiction of Greenview.
- 1.11. **Greenview** means the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16.
- 1.12. **Infested** means a property containing Clubroot of Canola.
- 1.13. **Notice** means a notice in writing issued by a Pest Inspector under section 12 of the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.14. **Period of Restriction** means a period of time which a cruciferous crop may not be planted or grown.
- 1.15. **Pest** means an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease declared a pest under section two of the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.16. **Pest Inspector** means an inspector appointed by Greenview Council or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.17. **Producer** means a farm operator.
- 1.18. **Soil Disturbance** means anything that can or may move soil.
- 1.19. **Suspected Field** means any field for which it has displayed any symptoms or signs of Clubroot of Canola.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. Clubroot of Canola poses 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 for twenty (20) years or more according to current research.
 - 2.1.1. 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.
- 2.2. Greenview Council shall appoint Pest Inspectors (as per section 10 of the *Agricultural Pests Act*).
 - 2.2.1. The Agricultural Fieldman, under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, is by virtue of that office, an inspector under the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 2.3. The Manager of Agricultural Services 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 transferral between fields by Pest Inspectors and will follow the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan.

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1. In the event that a sample from a suspected field returns as positive for Clubroot of Canola (DNA analysis), Greenview shall:

- 3.1.1 Inform the Agricultural Service Board and Municipal Council of the discovery, and of any enforcement actions taken.
- 3.1.2 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 the lands provided that pre-approval has been granted by the Manager of Agricultural Services at his/her sole discretion.
- 3.1.2 Ensure that all Canola fields with which the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) is known to be involved are inspected (including that landowner(s) and/or producer(s) own field(s), custom seeding, custom harvest, etc.).
 - A. If the producer is operating on lands other than their own, a release of information form shall be signed by the registered landowner before there is correspondence with the producer.
- 3.1.3 Ensure the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) receive a written Notice as per the *Agricultural Pests Act* and associated Regulations through registered mail or delivery in person and are required to follow the Best Management Guidelines in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan.
 - A. Additional information may include:
 - i. The Alberta Clubroot Management Plan
 - ii. Clubroot of Canola Policy 6308
 - iii. Clubroot Identification Information
- 3.1.4 All landowner(s) and/or producer(s) within a one(1) mile or 1.6 kilometer radius of the field where Clubroot was confirmed, will be sent written notice that Clubroot was confirmed within a one (1) mile or 1.6 kilometer radius of their property.
 - A. Additional information may include:
 - i. The Alberta Clubroot Management Plan
 - ii. Clubroot of Canola Policy 6308
 - iii. Clubroot Identification Information
- 3.1.5 In order to better understand how the disease was introduced and spread, endeavour 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.
- 3.2 The landowner(s) and/or producer(s) of lands confirmed with Clubroot may harvest the crop as per conditions set out in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan, and for the subsequent three years following discovery of Clubroot, no host crop (including Clubroot resistant Canola) shall be planted. This is considered a one in four year rotation.
- 3.3 The landowner(s) and/or producer(s) of lands confirmed with Clubroot shall be required to adopt the following control measures, as per the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan:
 - 3.3.1 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

- 3.3.2 Crop residue shall be chopped and evenly spread back onto the infected land, not baled or removed
- 3.3.3 Any seed load transported from the infested land shall be securely covered (tarpred)
- 3.3.4 Soil disturbance on infected land must be minimized to prevent movement to uninfected land
- 3.3.5 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
- 3.3.6 Implements, or parts thereof, which come directly into contact with the soil should be sterilized, as per the Alberta Clubroot Management Plant (Appendix 1 and 2)
- 3.3.7 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 in which Clubroot test result is positive. Should the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) of infected land plant canola regardless of positive testing, the Manager of Agricultural Services shall:
 - A. Issue a Notice to the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) as per the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
 - i. If the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) fails to abide by the Notice, the Manager of Agricultural Services shall take appropriate measures to destroy the planted crop.
 - ii. Should the municipality destroy the crop, an invoice shall be issued to the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) for the labour, chemical and equipment costs of the crops destruction as per Provincial Legislation, including the ability of the municipality to add the arrears amount to the property taxes.
 - iii. Should enforcement be required, additional administrative fees will be charged at 15% of the cost of enforcement.
- 3.3.8 After the period of restriction, canola may be seeded using only Clubroot resistant varieties and rotating the resistant varieties with each subsequent planting.
- 3.3.9 Host plants of the clubroot pathogen, as listed in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plant, and volunteer canola shall be destroyed from within crops on the infested lands, for a period of three (3) consecutive years following the year in which a Clubroot test result is positive.
- 3.3.10 Inform any contractors or custom operators 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.
- 3.4. The landowner(s) and/or producer(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 Plant that is set out by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to reduce the spread of the disease with the movement of soil and equipment.

4. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. Council shall appoint Pest Inspectors (as per section 10 of the *Agricultural Pests Act*).

4.1.1. The Agricultural Fieldman, under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, is by virtue of that office, an inspector under the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

5. ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 The Manager of Agricultural Services shall establish protocols to be followed by Pest Inspectors for inspection, sampling techniques, and for entering land. These procedures shall be designated to minimize the potential for clubroot spore transferral between fields by Pest Inspectors and will follow the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan.

5.2 Annually, the Manager of Agricultural Services shall schedule inspections of Canola fields within Greenview. In preparing this inspection schedule, the Agricultural Fieldman shall use the following criteria:

5.2.1. The fields inspected shall be distributed across the geographic area of the municipality.

5.2.2. Priority inspections will be given to fields where:

- A. The landowner(s) and/or producer(s) are known or believed to be involved in farming outside of Greenview.
- B. Inspectors notice Canola which appears to be showing symptoms of Clubroot (wilting, stunting, yellowing and early maturing).
- C. When earth moving equipment (i.e. pipeline, drilling, service rigs or road construction equipment) suspected to be from outside the Peace Region has been actively operated on the land.
- D. The property previously has Clubroot documented and verified through DNA analysis with an annual deadline for re-inspections of June 30.
- E. All fields within a one (1) mile or 1.6 kilometer radius of any field where Clubroot of Canola was confirmed and any fields associated with the landowner(s) and/ or producer(s) of any field where Clubroot of Canola was confirmed.

5.3. Advise other Peace Region Agricultural Fieldman as well as the appropriate provincial departments that Clubroot has been found within Greenview.

5.4. Greenview Agricultural Services will provide information and education to landowner(s) and/or producer(s) regarding the spread of Clubroot of Canola.

5.5 Greenview will advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be a 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.