

**COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE NO. 1
POLICY MANUAL**

Legal References: Agriculture Pests Act	Policy Department: Agriculture Services
Cross References: Agriculture Service Board	Policy Number: D19
Adoption Date: March 3, 2008 (Resolution # 03-405-08) October 6, 2008 (Resolution # 10-1280-08)	Policy Title: Clubroot Policy

POLICY PURPOSE:

- ❖ To provide direction for the County of Grande #1 to prevent the introduction of Clubroot to the County
- ❖ To specify what steps will be taken if Clubroot is discovered in the County of Grande Prairie #1
- ❖ To minimize the impact of Clubroot on the primary producers of the County

AUTHORITY:

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

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)

The municipality must appoint Inspectors under the Act who are authorized to:

- ❖ enter onto land and inspect for clubroot;
- ❖ and in the event that clubroot has been found the Agricultural Fieldman shall issue notice specifying measures required to control clubroot and/ or prevent it from spreading.

ACTION:

The County will employ an appointed Agricultural Fieldman who will act as Inspector under the (APA).

- ❖ The Agricultural Fieldman shall employ and train other personnel as Inspectors
- ❖ County Council shall appoint the personnel as inspectors

Inspectors will check a minimum of 100 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. Priority of inspection will be given to fields where:

- ❖ the producer is known or believed to be involved in farming land outside the Peace Region
- ❖ the producer is known or believed to have recently purchased farm or earth moving equipment from outside the Peace Region
- ❖ earth moving equipment i.e. pipeline, drilling or service rigs or road construction type equipment from outside the Peace Region has been on the land
- ❖ Inspectors notice Canola which appears to be showing symptoms of Clubroot (wilting, stunting, yellowing and early maturity)

Inspectors will wear disposable boot covers over their footwear when inspecting fields for Clubroot. No vehicles will be permitted to enter onto the field. If an Inspector finds Canola with Clubroot type symptoms, that Inspector is not to enter onto any other lands in the Municipality until his footwear and any tools used can be sterilized using a 1-2% bleach solution.

If Clubroot is found within the boundaries of the County of Grande Prairie #1, **the landowner will receive notices as necessary under the Agricultural Pest Act to ensure:**

- ❖ a non-host crop is grown for at least 4 consecutive years from the initial infestation ensuring susceptible host plants are controlled each year;

further, the landowner will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

- ❖ harvest the crop with the canola seed being sold for crushing, but **not** sold as feed or kept for seed; straw from the crop is to be chopped & spread back onto the field, it is not to be baled or removed
- ❖ tarp any loads being transported from the infested land;
- ❖ clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infected land, and sterilize implements or the parts of the implement which come directly in contact with the soil using a 1 – 2% bleach solution, for the next 4 years
- ❖ no crops of any kind harvested from the field for the next 4 years are to be kept for reseeding purposes, or sold as seed

The Agricultural Fieldman will implement the following:

- ❖ inform the A.S.B. of any Clubroot infections found, and any enforcement actions being taken
- ❖ all Canola fields which the farmer is known to be involved with shall be inspected (including his own, custom seeding, custom harvest etc.);
- ❖ a notice shall be placed in the local news paper advising landowners that Clubroot has been found in the County.
- ❖ inform the other Peace Region Fieldmen as well as Alberta Agriculture and Food personnel that Clubroot has been found in the County.
- ❖ Per Section 10 of the APA, Pest & Nuisance Control Regulation, landowners & occupants with fields adjacent to the infected field shall be notified that Clubroot has been found, the specific legal description of the field may be given.
- ❖ In order to better understand how the disease is introduced and spread, endeavour to gather as much information about the Clubroot infected field as possible, including type & variety of the crop, seed retailer, equipment movement, custom operators used, soil type (esp. pH) and drainage patterns.

INSPECTION:

In order to inspect for Clubroot, the Agricultural Fieldman shall:

- ❖ keep staff informed of the symptoms;
- ❖ supervise surveys (if any) according to Alberta Agriculture and Food guidelines;
- ❖ inform farmers of symptoms and, garner their assistance for inspection & sampling purposes

AWARENESS:

In order to raise awareness of the potential problem

- ❖ use available information as handouts, post bulletins at local agricultural businesses
- ❖ publish an article on Clubroot in the County Newsletter
- ❖ cooperate with other rural Municipalities and with local industry to hold or be a part of Clubroot information meetings

EXHIBIT(S):

1. Agricultural Pests Act