

Municipal District of Northern Lights

CLUBROOT OF CANOLA CONTROL POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 2009

STATEMENT

Clubroot (of Canola) is a serious soil-borne disease caused by *Plasmodiophora brassicae*. It is a serious threat to the Canola industry because it can reduce yields by 50%, it reduces the quantity and quality of the oil produced from the seeds and the spores can remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years.

Clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) 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.

The Municipal District of Northern Lights supports the enforcement of the APA to prevent the establishment of, or to control or destroy Clubroot of Canola within our municipality.

1.0 OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To administer, direct and enforce the APA for Clubroot of Canola in an equitable, consistent and effective manner within the financial and human constraints of the municipality.
- 1.2 To protect agricultural land from the infestation of Clubroot of Canola.
- 1.3 To inspect Canola fields in the municipality for the presence of Clubroot.

2.0 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Will provide direction, supervision and resources to the Agricultural Fieldman for carrying out this policy.

3.0 AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Is the Pest Inspector for the municipality under the Agricultural Pests Act.

- 3.2 Will supervise, direct and be responsible for other Council appointed municipal Pest Inspectors.
- 3.3 Will be solely responsible for the issuance and enforcement of Notice to Control Pests.

4.0 PEST INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITY

- 4.1 Will follow the Clubroot Inspection Procedures as determined by the Agricultural Fieldman.

5.0 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

- 5.1 A Notice to Control Pests will be issued to the Landowner/occupant only upon the confirmation of Clubroot on their land via a plant tissue analysis from an accredited laboratory.
- 5.2 The Notice to Control Pests may prohibit the growth of Canola crops for a period of five years.
- 5.3 Landowner/occupant contravention of a Notice to Control Pests will result in the destruction of the Canola crop via herbicide application.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF INFESTATION

- 6.1 As per Section 10 of the APA Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, a letter may be sent to all adjacent landholders notifying them of the legal land location of the Clubroot infestation as well as general information and recommendations for the prevention and control of Clubroot.

7.0 RECOVERY OF EXPENSES

- 7.1 Non-compliance of a Notice to Control Pests will result in a \$150 administrative penalty.