

## NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

### POLICY NUMBER 104/08

#### CLUBROOT OF CANOLA POLICY

**INTRODUCTION:** Clubroot is a soil-borne disease of crucifers (canola, mustard & vegetable crops such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, turnip & radish) caused by the fungus-like organism *Plasmodiophora brassicae*. The fungus reduces the quality and quantity of the oil produced from canola seeds and the spores can remain viable on the soil for up to 20 years. *As the infection rate increases* Clubroot of Canola can reduce yields by almost 100%. Disease development is enhanced in wet and acidic soil conditions. The pathogen is spread mainly by movement of soil and infected plant material.

**OBJECTIVE:** To follow the Alberta Pest Control Act; especially Section 6 which states that a local authority shall take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or to control or destroy pests to deal with Clubroot of Canola in Northern Sunrise County.

**PURPOSE:** To protect Agricultural Land from Clubroot of Canola and specify steps to be taken by Municipal staff if Clubroot is discovered in the County, with the intent to minimize the impact of Clubroot on the primary producers of Northern Sunrise County.

**POLICY:**

- 1) Council will appoint the Agricultural Fieldman, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman and the weed inspectors as Inspectors under the Agricultural Pest Act.
- 2) In order to inspect for Clubroot, the Agricultural Fieldman shall keep staff informed of the symptoms, supervise surveys, send out any suspicious plants found for testing and report any suspicious plants found to the producer.
- 3) The Agricultural Fieldman shall ensure that producers are aware of the pest Clubroot of Canola through any of the following means: host or promote public information meetings, use existing or develop information flyers, put up posters at agricultural outlets or the County Newsletter.

- 4) The inspectors will inspect a minimum of 50 Canola fields for Clubroot in the County each year.
  - a. Inspectors will ensure these fields are spread out throughout the County.
  - b. Priority will be given to fields if:
    - i. the producer moves equipment throughout more than one municipality
    - ii. it is identified that a producer has purchased used farm or earth moving equipment from outside the County
    - iii. earth moving equipment (i.e. pipeline, drilling or service rigs or road construction type equipment) from outside the County has been on the land
    - iv. Inspectors notice Canola which appears to be showing symptoms of Clubroot
  - c. Inspectors will wear disposable boot covers over their footwear when inspecting fields for Clubroot. If an inspector finds Canola with Clubroot type symptoms, that inspector will not to enter onto any other lands in the Municipality until his/her footwear and all tools used can be sterilized using a 1-2% bleach solution. Booties will be removed and placed in a garbage bag when leaving the field.
  - d. No County vehicles will be permitted to enter onto the field.
- 5) Any farmer, when purchasing used equipment from outside Northern Sunrise County, shall ensure it is thoroughly cleaned before bringing it into the County and using it.
- 6) If Clubroot of Canola is found within the boundaries of Northern Sunrise County:
  - a. ***the Agricultural Fieldman will:***
    - i. inform the A.S.B.
    - ii. provide the producer with a copy of the lab results confirming the infection.
    - iii. issue a notice under the authority of the Alberta Pest Act restricting the seeding of a crucifer crop on the affected field for 4 consecutive cropping years following identification of the

pest. 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.

- iv. inspect all Canola fields which the farmer is known to be involved with including his own, rented land and custom seeding, custom harvest, etc.)
- v. post a notice in the Northern Sunrise County Newsletter advising landowners that Clubroot has been found in the County
- vi. inform the other Peace Region Fieldmen that Clubroot has been found
- vii. send a letter 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.
- viii. in order to better understand how the disease was introduced and spread, the County will endeavor 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.
- ix. provide a sign that can be posted on the land to warn anyone entering the land they will need to clean their equipment before leaving to prevent spread of the disease.

b. *the landowner shall:*

- i. harvest the crop and sell it for crushing it but may **not** be sold or kept for seed. Straw from the crop is to be chopped and spread back onto the field, it is not to be baled or removed and preferably incorporated into the soil.
- ii. tarp all loads being transported from the infested land
- iii. clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before taking them off the infested land. Keep grain trucks on or near the approach or on a grassed area near the approach if possible.
- iv. sterilize implements or the parts of the implement which come directly in contact with

- the soil using a 1-2% bleach solution before leaving the field (for the next four years)
- v. seed a non-host crop and/or perform summer-fallow and/or chemical-fallow), for 4 or more consecutive years from initial infestation
  - vi. no crop residue of any kind (ie straw or hay) can be removed from the field for the first two years after the infection is identified.
  - vii. advise custom applicators, recreational vehicle operators and any other people wishing to travel across the infected land that they will have to clean all their equipment before leaving the infected land.

Approved Date: May 8, 2008

Motion Number: 374/05/08/08

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Reeve

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Chief Administrative Officer