

RED DEER COUNTY

TITLE: CONTROL OF CLUBROOT DISEASE IN CANOLA

Category: Operations / Agricultural Services

Policy _____ Procedure x
Bylaw _____ Guideline _____

No. 7.022(a)

AUTHORITY: County Manager Approval

DATE: January 2, 2018

REPLACES: County Manager Approval

DATE: April 10, 2015

Further References:

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines and procedures in relation to Red Deer County's Clubroot inspection, confirmation and enforcement process under authority of the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta.

GUIDELINES/SCOPE

1. Administration will inspect Canola fields to identify the presence of Clubroot disease.
2. Inspections will be conducted on a priority scale based on risk. Risk factors may include crop history, proximity to other infestations, etc.
3. Priority Areas to inspect:
 - Priority 1 – Fields that had previously confirmed or suspected positive (June)
 - Priority 2 – Fields that are in close proximity to existing infestations (3 to 5 mile radius)
 - Priority 3 – Locations that may have been contaminated by soil from confirmed Clubroot locations through the movement of equipment or vehicles
 - Priority 4 – Random sampling of other canola fields (approximately 1 to 2 per township)
4. If clubroot is suspected, a plant sample will be sent for lab analysis to confirm the presence of Clubroot disease.
 - a) If confirmed (Clubroot positive) a re-inspection of the property will occur to develop a **Disease Infestation Rate (DIR)** of that parcel. The landowner may/shall be contacted to witness the re-inspection.
 - b) If denied (Clubroot negative), the parcel will be listed as inspected and no further action will be required.
5. DIR will be determined by taking and inspecting plant samples within the parcel. A minimum of 50 samples (preferably over 100) must be taken and a percentage of plants that show clubroot symptoms versus plants that do not show symptoms will be considered the DIR for that parcel. (U of A Canola/Clubroot Survey Protocols)

- a) If a DIR of under 5% is determined in the parcel, then a Notice to Control Pests will not be issued. The landowner will be provided with the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan and advised of Best Management Practices (BMP), including equipment sanitation and encouraged to restrict access to the parcel. It will be strongly suggested to the landowner that they voluntarily adopt a 1 in 4 rotation, if they don't already. This parcel will be monitored annually to ensure the disease isn't spreading/increasing in severity and to ensure that BMP's are being followed.
 - b) If DIR of 5% to 10% is determined in the parcel, a Notice to Control Pests will be issued. This notice will prohibit the growth of a Clubroot host crop for a period of up to 3 growing seasons (1 in 4 year rotation).
 - c) If DIR of 10% to 20% is determined in the parcel, a Notice to Control Pests will be issued. This notice will prohibit the growth of a Clubroot host crop for a period of 4 growing seasons (1 in 5 year rotation).
 - d) If DIR greater than 20% is determined in the parcel, a Notice to Control Pests will be issued. This notice will prohibit the growth of a Clubroot host crop for a period of 5 growing seasons (1 in 6 year rotation).
6. If BMPs haven't been followed or are not being followed, a notice should be written, regardless of DIR.
 7. If there are insufficient plant samples for taking a plant sample or completing a DIR, a comprehensive soil sample may be collected and tested to confirm the presence or absence of Clubroot disease and a Notice to Control Pests may be issued.
 8. Notices written may direct action to a particular area of a parcel or the entire parcel. Once a landowner has been notified and a notice is to be issued, a period of 10 business days will be observed before the adjacent landowners are notified of the nearby infestation. This period will allow the landowner and the County the time to develop a management plan and also observe the appeal period before notifying the neighbours prematurely if there is an appeal.