



Policy Name

Control of Clubroot

Policy Number

AG-26

Policy Statement

To clearly define actions required to manage and/or prevent an outbreak of Clubroot in susceptible crops. To contain the spread of *Plasmodiophora brassicae* if an outbreak occurs in Brazeau County.

To support the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan produced by Alberta Clubroot Management Committee Agdex 140/638-2 revised August 2014.

Policy

Clubroot in susceptible crops, caused by the soil borne myxomycete fungus disease organism *Plasmodiophora brassicae*, is a destructive disease of canola and other cole crops which causes major economic losses through decreased yields and reduced quality through the formation of galls on roots that cause nutrients to be withheld from the growing plant.

It is specified as a pest under the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta. The Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta authorizes inspectors appointed under the act to enter onto land to inspect for a pest and issue a notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

A. Awareness:

In order to raise awareness of the problem:

- 1) Agricultural Services administration staff will provide information and education to landowners regarding the spread of disease. Further, information may be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Services Department at 780-542-7777. Information will be provided on a request basis to energy companies, parks personnel, surveyors, Alberta First call and other businesses that have business on farmland.
- 2) Inform Brazeau County residents of our County policy and responsibility of the County under the Alberta Pest Act through the County newsletter.

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- 3) Inform Brazeau County residents of the importance of crop rotation and avoid growing susceptible crops in short (2-3 year) and back to back seasons though the County newsletter in early spring or late winter.
- 4) A.S.B. members shall keep informed of policy and programs and act as ambassadors to educate County residents about Clubroot.

B. Preventative Measures:

- 1) Long crop rotations are the best way to prevent clubroot. A five year crop rotation is recommended.
- 2) All susceptible crop fields shall be treated as possibly infected and disposable boot covers shall be worn during weed and pest inspections by county employees and disposed of in a garbage bag after each field. These are then disposed of in the landfill. Weed inspectors will note on field inspections sheets when they come across a susceptible crop field and record this crop for next year's inspectors who will wear disposable boot covers on these fields. Weed inspectors will follow the Brazeau County Clubroot Inspection and Sampling Procedures set out by Agricultural Services administration which outlines proper sampling techniques and protocol for entering upon land.
- 3) Equipment brought onto a farmers field for the purpose of road widening or other construction projects done by Brazeau County will be cleaned before entering a farmer's field according to Brazeau County Equipment Cleaning Procedure listed in the appendix of this policy.
- 4) Landowners are to take responsibility for contractors they hire ensuring measures are in place to ensure that equipment brought onto their land is cleaned before entering the property.
- 5) Energy companies entering landowner's property should be questioned by landowners on company procedures for cleaning equipment that enters farmland in susceptible crop producing areas.

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C. Inspection:

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

- 1) Keep staff informed of the symptoms.
- 2) Inform farmers of symptoms and through increased knowledge garner their assistance for inspection purposes.
- 3) Carry out inspections on all susceptible crops within Brazeau County each growing season. These inspections shall be carried out in months of August and September.
- 4) Inspections will be conducted by the Agricultural Fieldman or by an Inspector appointed by the Brazeau County Council.
- 5) Inspectors will follow the Brazeau County Clubroot Inspection and Sampling Procedures set out by Agricultural Services administration which outlines proper sampling techniques and protocol for entering upon land.

D. Management, Control Measures and Enforcement:

- 1) When land is verified positive for clubroot, the landowner will be notified in writing with a legal notice under the Province of Alberta Agricultural Pest Act. Best efforts will be made to notify the renter or land leaseholder. All landowners of clubroot infected fields found will be issued a "Notice to Control Pests" under section 12 (1) of the Agriculture Pest Act. Furthermore, adjacent landowners will be notified, by mail, of the legal land location of the positive field.
- 2) The notice will prohibit the growth of susceptible crops and mustard crops for the period of five years. Under no circumstances will these crops be permitted to be grown on the field where clubroot was found.
- 3) The landowner will be directed to take preventative measures to ensure that the disease is isolated and will not be permitted to seed susceptible crops or other cruciferous crops for the next five years. Furthermore, the notice will stipulate that a clubroot resistant variety must be planted, if canola is grown in the sixth year.

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- 4) Any land then sown to such a crop within the five year crop restriction will be destroyed.
- 5) The owner or occupants of the land who are disturbing the soil will have the responsibility to follow best management guidelines set out by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to reduce the spread of disease with the movement of soil and equipment.

E. Testing

- 1) If visible signs of clubroot are found, the landowner/farmer will be contacted and inspection and sample submission will be carried out with the landowner/farmer present whenever possible either, cooperatively or through enforcement measures. Procedures for sampling will be done as per the Brazeau County Clubroot Inspection and Sampling Procedure.
- 2) If the presence of clubroot is found, the inspector shall take a plants sample for laboratory analysis (PCR). This sample is to be bagged, labeled with the field location, date, and time. A Brazeau County Clubroot Inspection Report Form is to be filled out. A copy of that report will be placed i.n the land files; if the report comes back negative the report will be removed. If the report comes back positive the report will remain in the land file for pest history.
- 3) Upon leaving the suspect field, disposable boot covers will be removed, disposed of in a garbage bag and sent to a landfill.
- 4) Plant samples should be taken to a certified lab within 48 hours for verification.
- 5) The cost of analysis for clubroot will be bore by Brazeau County for samples taken by Brazeau County pest inspectors.

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