

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PEACE NO.135 POLICY**

<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Joyce Sydnes	<b>ADOPTED BY:</b>  Council	<b>NUMBER:</b> ASB-2
		<b>SUPERSEDES:</b>
<b>TITLE:</b> Virulent Blackleg in Canola	<b>DATE:</b> May 11, 1993	

**PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY:** To keep the M.D. of Peace No.135 Blackleg free.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

**Objectives:** To set, plainly, the steps required for a Municipality to control an outbreak of Virulent Blackleg in Canola.

**Authority:** Virulent Blackleg is a pest under the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta (1984).

The Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta authorizes Municipal Inspectors to:

- enter onto land and inspect for pests;
- issue notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

**Action:** If Virulent Blackleg of Canola is found within the boundaries of the Municipal District of Peace #135, the landowner shall either, cooperatively or through enforcement measures:

- harvest the Canola crop with the total crop being sold for crushing or feed but not for seed;
- tarp any loads of Canola being transported from the infested land
- clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land
- incorporate residue in the fall unless soil erosion is a concern;
- be convinced or forced by law to seed a nonhost crop or to perform summerfallow, for 5 years from initial infestation;
- in the 5 year period, volunteer hosts must be controlled in summerfallow or seeded crops through chemical or mechanical means
- following the 5th year the landowner may return to Canola;
- it is imperative that if a host crop is seeded on the infested land prior to the 5 year period expiring, then a Notice to Destroy The Crop and the Virulent Blackleg shall be issued and enforced if ignored;
- landowners within an 8 km radius shall be contacted, informed of the problem and discouraged from growing Canola;
- host crops within 8 km's shall be inspected yearly for Virulent Blackleg;

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<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Joyce Sydnes	<b>ADOPTED BY:</b> Council	<b>NUMBER:</b> ASB-2 Page 2
<b>TITLE:</b> Virulent Blackleg in Canola Continued		<b>SUPERSEDES:</b>
<b>DATE:</b> May 11, 1993		
<b>PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY:</b> To keep the M.D. of Peace No.135 Blackleg free.		
<p><b>POLICY STATEMENT:</b> <u>Action Continued:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the seed source of the infested field shall be traced and any other suspect fields shall be inspected;</li> <li>- Virulent Blackleg infested crops which are proven to be first year can be harvested safely for feed or crushing, however, if it can be verified that ascospores are present then the Canola crop must be destroyed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inspection:</b> In order to inspect for Virulent Blackleg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) keep staff informed of the symptoms;</li> <li>ii) perform surveys according to Alberta Agriculture guidelines early to mid July, at early flowering stage;</li> <li>iii) inform farmers of symptoms and, through increased knowledge, garner their assistance for inspection purposes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness:</b> In order to raise awareness of the problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) use available information as handouts;</li> <li>ii) inform Peace Region Seed Outlets of our concerns and request Canola seed not be brought into the area, if possible, especially from infested areas (Saskatchewan, Regions III &amp; IV). The Fieldman shall write to each seed outlet in his municipality and express these concerns yearly.</li> <li>iii) assist and encourage area seed plants to set and follow Policies to accept only Canola that is certified Virulent Blackleg free.</li> <li>iv) A.S.B. shall be kept informed of Policy and programs and used as information ambassadors to keep Virulent Blackleg out of the Peace.</li> </ul>		