

**OBJECTIVE:**

- ❖ To help prevent the introduction of Clubroot to the M.D. of Smoky River No. 130
- ❖ To specify what steps will be taken if Clubroot is discovered in the M.D.
- ❖ To minimize the spread of Clubroot
- ❖ To minimize the impact of Clubroot on the primary producers of the M.D.

**AUTHORITY:**

Clubroot was declared a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) of Alberta in 2007.

The Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta requires a municipality to "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality" (Sec. 6)

The municipality must appoint Inspectors under the Act who are authorized to:

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

The municipality requires that any equipment or materials (construction, oil & gas exploration, tillage & seeding) which disturbs or otherwise comes into contact with soil outside of the M.D. be cleaned of all soil prior to entering the M.D. Further, if the equipment was last used or staged in an area known to be infested with Clubroot, that it also be disinfected using the methods noted in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan.

**ACTION:**

The M.D. will employ an appointed Agricultural Fieldman who will act as Inspector under the (APA). Other personnel may also be appointed as Inspectors.

Inspectors will check a minimum of 50 Canola fields for Clubroot in the Municipality each year. An attempt will be made to ensure these fields are generally spread throughout the Municipality. Priority of inspection will be given to fields where:

- ❖ Inspectors notice Canola which appears to be showing symptoms of Clubroot (wilting, stunting, yellowing and early maturity)
- ❖ earth moving equipment i.e. pipeline, drilling or service rigs, or road construction equipment from outside the Peace Region has been on the land
- ❖ the producer is known or believed to be involved in farming land or believed to have recently purchased farm or earth moving equipment from outside the Peace Region
- ❖ the land has been identified as being farmed in a short rotation i.e. Canola on canola rotation

Inspectors will wear disposable boot covers over their footwear when inspecting fields for Clubroot. No vehicles will be permitted to enter onto the field. If an Inspector finds Canola with Clubroot type symptoms, that Inspector is not to enter onto any other lands in the Municipality until his footwear and any tools used can be sterilized using a 1-2% bleach solution.

If Clubroot is found within the boundaries of the M.D. of Smoky River, **the landowner and/or occupant will receive notices as necessary under the Agricultural Pest Act for 4 consecutive years following the year of discovery requiring that:**

- ❖ a non-host crop is grown, or chemical-fallow is performed ensuring susceptible host plants are controlled each year; Clubroot Resistant Canola varieties are considered a host crop, and as such can not be grown in rotation sooner than 4 years after the discovery of clubroot
- ❖ any crop residue and soil be cleaned from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infected land, and that the parts of the implement which come directly in contact with the soil be cleaned and then sterilized using a 1 – 2% bleach solution

**further, the landowner and/or occupant will be advised to adopt the following measures:**

- ❖ harvest the crop with the canola seed being sold for crushing, but **not** sold as feed or kept for seed; straw from the crop is to be chopped & spread back onto the field, it is not to be baled or removed
- ❖ tarp any loads being transported from the infested land;
- ❖ no crops of any kind harvested from the field for the next 4 years are to be kept for reseeding purposes, or sold as seed
- ❖ inform any contractors or custom operators who may enter onto the land that Clubroot has been found on the property, and advise them to properly clean & disinfect any equipment which comes into contact with the soil.

**The Agricultural Fieldman will implement the following:**

- ❖ inform the A.S.B. of any Clubroot infections found, and any enforcement actions being taken
- ❖ inspect all Canola fields which the farmer is known to be involved with (including his own, custom seeding, custom harvest etc.);

- ❖ place a notice in the *Smoky River Express* advising landowners that Clubroot has been found in the M.D.
- ❖ inform the other Peace Region Fieldmen as well as Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development personnel that Clubroot has been found in the M.D.
- ❖ Per Section 10 of the APA, Pest & Nuisance Control Regulation, landowners & occupants with fields adjacent to the infected field may be notified that Clubroot has been found, the specific legal description of the field will be given only if this action is approved by Council or the A.S.B.
- ❖ In order to better understand how the disease is introduced and spread, endeavour 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
- ❖ Work cooperatively with the landowner in any way possible to minimize the spread of the disease from the land, as well as minimizing the economic impact on the producer, giving consideration to the following possibilities:
  - Encourage direct seeding to limit soil movement, implements needing to be cleaned and erosion potential, if not already the normal tillage practice of the landowner
  - Where possible, minimize the area to be taken out of Canola production, i.e. if only a small area close to a field approach is found, and the landowner is cooperative and utilizes a direct seeding system, designate only a portion of the field as the “infested area”
  - If the drainage pattern of the area moves water from the infested field onto adjacent lands, ensuring direct seeding takes place is crucial, consideration should be given to taking a larger area out of Canola production to prevent build-up and subsequent downstream movement of the zoospores, soil testing should be implemented to test for resting spores in the waterways and downstream
  - Following the 4 year period of no-host crops, encourage the use of Clubroot Resistant varieties on known infested fields using a 1 in 4 or longer rotation to prevent the build-up of clubroot spores in the soil

**INSPECTION:**

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

- ❖ keep staff informed of the symptoms;
- ❖ supervise surveys (if any) according to Alberta Agriculture and Food guidelines;
- ❖ inform farmers of symptoms and, garner their assistance for inspection & sampling purposes

**AWARENESS:**

In order to raise awareness of the potential problem

- ❖ use available information as handouts, post bulletins at local agricultural businesses
- ❖ publish an article on Clubroot in the Smoky River Express &/or Municipal Newsletter
- ❖ cooperate with other rural Municipalities and with local industry to hold, or be a part of Clubroot information meetings
- ❖ refer Producers and Industry personnel to the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan for detailed information on methods to prevent the spread, as well as methods to deal with infestations once Clubroot is established