



SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

POLICY TITLE:

Clubroot of Canola

POLICY NO.

AG15

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DEPARTMENT: Agriculture

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

NO.: 13.06.10.08

DATE: June 10, 2008

CROSS REFERENCE

AMENDMENT DATE

PURPOSE:

- To provide direction for Saddle Hills County to prevent the introduction of clubroot to the Region,
- To specify what steps will be taken if clubroot is discovered in Saddle Hills County,
- To minimize the impact of clubroot on the primary producers of Saddle Hills County and the Peace Region.

POLICY:

AUTHORITY:

Clubroot was declared a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act 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.

ACTION:

Saddle Hills County shall have an appointed Manager of Rural Development (MRD) who will act as Inspector under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta (APA). Other personnel may also be appointed as Inspectors. This clubroot policy is endorsed by all Peace Region municipalities.

Inspectors will check a minimum of 25 canola fields for clubroot in Saddle Hills County each year. An attempt will be made to ensure these fields are generally spread out throughout the County. Priority of inspection will be given to fields where:

- the producer is known or believed to be involved in farming land outside Saddle Hills County or the Peace Region;
- the producer has recently purchased farm or earth moving equipment from outside Saddle Hills County or the Peace Region;
- earth moving equipment i.e. pipeline, drilling or service rigs or road construction type equipment from outside Saddle Hills County or the Peace Region has been on the land;
- Inspectors notice canola which appears to be showing symptoms of clubroot (wilting, stunting, yellowing and early maturity).

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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:

- a) That Inspector is not to enter onto any other lands in Saddle Hills County until his footwear and any tools used are sterilized using a 1-2% bleach solution, and
- b) The plants are to be sent to an accredited lab for positive ID before action is taken.

If clubroot is found within the boundaries of Saddle Hills County, the landowner will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

- Harvest the crop with the canola seed being sold to be crushed, 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;
- Clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land, and sterilize implements or the parts of the implement which come directly in contact with the soil using a 1 – 2% bleach solution, for the next 4 years;
- Seed a non-host crop and/or perform chemical-fallow, ensuring susceptible mustard family weeds are controlled for 4 or more consecutive years from initial infestation;
- No crops of any kind harvested from the field for the next 4 years will be kept or sold for seed.

The MRD will implement the following:

- Inform the ASB of any clubroot infections found, and any enforcement actions will be as directed by the ASB;
- All canola fields which the farmer is known to be involved with shall be inspected (including his own and custom seeding, custom harvest etc.);
- A notice shall be placed in a local paper advising landowners that clubroot has been found in Saddle Hills County;
- The MRD shall inform the other Peace Region Fieldmen that clubroot has been found;
- Per Section 10 of the APA, Pest & Nuisance Control Regulation, landowners & occupants with fields adjacent to the infected field shall be notified that clubroot has been found in a parcel of land adjacent to theirs. The specific legal description of the field will not be given;
- In order to better understand how the disease is introduced and spread, the MRD will 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 (especially pH) and drainage patterns.

INSPECTION:

In order to inspect for clubroot, the MRD shall:

- keep staff informed of the symptoms;

POLICY – continued

- supervise surveys (if any) according to Alberta Agriculture guidelines;
- inform farmers of symptoms and, garner their assistance for inspection & sampling purposes.

AWARENESS:

In order to raise awareness of the potential problem, the MRD shall:

- use available information as handouts, post bulletins at local agricultural businesses;
- publish an article on clubroot in the local newspaper;
- cooperate with other rural municipalities and with local industry to hold or be a part of clubroot information meetings.

<i>CAO</i>	<i>PW</i>	<i>DCS</i>	<i>RF/DSM</i>	<i>PLANN/IT</i>	<i>ASSESS</i>	<i>MRD</i>