

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19

Our Mission - To create desirable rural experiences



ASB-11 Clubroot Policy

Department: Agricultural Service Board

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

To limit and prevent the spread of clubroot on lands within the County of St. Paul and to enforce the Agricultural Pest Act thus fulfilling the duties of the legislation enacted on lands in the County.

The County is committed to fulfilling its duties and providing enforcement under the Agricultural Pest Act Section 10(1), which states, “The local authority of a municipality shall appoint a sufficient number of inspectors to carry out this Act and the regulations within the municipality.”

POLICY STATEMENTS:

1.0 Definitions

1.1 The following words shall be defined as follows:

- (a) Clubroot of Canola or *Plasamodiophora brassicae*” means a pathogen that infects the roots of canola and causes galls to form, that then restrict the flow of water and nutrients to the plant.

2.0 Testing Process

- 2.1 Random inspections shall be conducted within the County of St. Paul by County-appointed inspectors. Fields will be inspected with practices to avoid the spread of clubroot. The County’s ‘Clubroot Code of Practice’ will be followed when conducting field inspections.
- 2.2 If inspectors suspect clubroot is present in a field, findings shall be confirmed by an approved laboratory test.
- 2.3 If a laboratory test comes back positive, an “Incidence Test” shall be completed on the field to determine what rotation restrictions will be applied to the field. The field shall receive a one-in-three-year rotation restriction if found to have a low incidence of Clubroot and a one-in-four restriction if found to have a high incidence of

Clubroot. The County's 'Clubroot Code of Practice' will be followed when handling field tests.

3.0 Positive Results

- 3.1 If a field is verified to have Clubroot by a laboratory test the landowner shall be notified in person or by telephone by an Agricultural Service Board employee. A Clubroot Pest Notice (Form 2 – Section 6(1) Agricultural Pests Act – Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation) shall be issued to the landowner of that field.
- 3.2 The Clubroot Pest Notice will include the following directions:
 - (a) No seeding of canola or other cruciferous crops including but not limited to mustard, cabbage, kale, cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts, turnips, or radishes for the next two (2) or three (3) years, and if seeding canola, only a Clubroot resistant variety of canola may be seeded in the third or fourth year.
 - (b) Control all volunteer canola
 - (c) Clean dirt off tillage equipment when exiting each land location
 - (d) Property owners must share this information with renters, custom applicators, or anyone else who may need to access their land.
- 3.3 If these directions are not followed and a cruciferous crop is seeded, it may be destroyed at the owner's expense pursuant to the Agricultural Pest Act.
- 3.4 All positive fields shall be listed on the County of St. Paul's website.
- 3.5 Landowners and occupants of Clubroot positive land shall be responsible for following the best practices set out in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan (ACMP).
- 3.6 Private landowners and industry are responsible for negotiating their own access and sanitization agreements with each other and the municipality will not involve itself in private negotiations unless it is an enforcement issue regarding a positive clubroot location.

4.0 County Practice

- 4.1 The County of St. Paul shall thoroughly pressure-wash all rental equipment before renting it out to the next landowner or occupant.

Council Approval: February 9, 2016
Amended: April 9, 2019
Amended: December 14, 2021

Code of Practice for Clubroot

Intent: To Prevent the establishment of and to limit the spread of soil borne disease on lands within the County of St. Paul

Objectives

1. At least 100 canola fields will be inspected for the presence of clubroot in canola.
 - a. Fields will be targeted where a short rotation is grown or where there is a possibility of transfer from other counties or municipalities.
 - b. Protocol will be followed as set by the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Pest Surveillance Branch.
 - c. Fields will be checked at what appears to be the most used access to the quarter and then checked towards the right of the access into the field.

2. Inspections will be conducted by the Agricultural Fieldman for the County of St. Paul, or an Inspector appointed by the Agricultural Fieldman. The following protocol will be followed when inspecting fields.
 - Vehicles will be parked at the entrance to the field.
 - All shovels and boots will be sprayed and saturated with a 2% bleach solution from field to field.
 - Plastic booties will be worn over top of rubber boots.
 - Surveys will be completed when the soil is not overly muddy or waterlogged.
 - A minimum of 50 plants will be pulled as you move from the access to the right of the access to the field.
 - If any questionable plants are found, they will be brought in to be checked for clubroot.
 - If applicable the plants will be sent in to a certified lab for a clubroot test.

3. When land is verified positive for clubroot the landowner and renter will be informed of the presence of clubroot on their land.
 - a. 200 new plants will be pulled from the clubroot positive field and if 20 or less plants show symptoms of clubroot the incidence will be considered low and a 1 in 3-year rotation restriction will be placed on the field.
 - b. The plants will be pulled in a W pattern starting from the entrance. 10 points along the pattern will be sampled and these points will be around 100m apart.
 - c. If more than 20 plants are found to show visible signs of clubroot the incidence will be considered high and a 1 in 4-year rotation restriction will be placed on the field.
 - d. If 0-2 plants are found to have clubroot a clubroot letter will be sent and no clubroot pest notice will be given.
 - e. Incidence tests will also be conducted on all land that has had a prior pest notice and is planted to canola the first year that they are able according to the pest notice. If clubroot is found at this time the incidence test will be used to determine the rotation restriction. A sample will also be sent for lab verification.
 - f. The fields' location will be posted on the County of St. Paul website.

4. The landowner and/or renter must take active measures to prevent further spread of clubroot on land verified positive for the presence of clubroot as set out in the ACMP.
5. The following measures have been identified as important to decrease the spread of clubroot.
 - a. Use of clubroot resistant canola and rotating varieties based on mode of resistance.
 - b. Cleaning equipment as set out in the ACMP before entering another piece of land.
 - c. Change rotations to see three years of no canola or cruciferous crops after a year of canola or a cruciferous crop.
 - d. Seed infected areas to a non-susceptible host.
 - e. Limit soil disturbance by equipment on verified land.
6. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) will assist the landowner and/or renter in developing a management strategy that will attempt to prevent the further spread of clubroot.
7. Failure to implement acceptable measures as decided by the ASB or the detection of severe levels of infestation can result in a notice being issued to the landowner as set out in the Province of Alberta's Agricultural Pest Act.
8. This document should be reviewed annually.