



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 *Plasmodiophora 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.
- (b) Chronic Clubroot Field means a field where clubroot is confirmed by a laboratory test in the first year that canola is seeded following completion of a Clubroot Pest Notice rotation restriction.

2.0 Inspection and 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 Where the County of St. Paul is notified by Alberta Agriculture, a provincial inspector, or another municipality of a suspected or confirmed case of clubroot that may impact lands within the County, the County shall prioritize and conduct an inspection or re-inspection of the affected lands within its municipal boundaries as soon as reasonably practicable.

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- 2.3 If inspectors suspect clubroot is present in a field, findings shall be confirmed by an approved laboratory test.
- 2.4 If a laboratory test comes back positive, the field shall receive a rotation restriction based on the “Incidence Test” completed during the initial survey. A one-in-three-year rotation restriction will be applied if a low incidence of Clubroot is found, and a one-in-four-year rotation restriction will be applied if a high incidence of Clubroot is found.

3.0 Positive Results

- 3.1 If a field is verified to have Clubroot by a laboratory test the owner and occupant of the land 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 owner 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 and it should feature a different mode of resistance than previously grown.
 - (b) Control all volunteer canola
 - (c) Clean dirt off tillage equipment when exiting each land location
 - (d) Owners must share this information with occupants, custom applicators, or anyone else who may need to access their land. Owners are encouraged to inform any new owner of existing clubroot restrictions at the time of sale or transfer of the property.
- 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 Owner 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 Owners 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 Chronic Clubroot Fields

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4.1 A field shall be designated as a Chronic Clubroot Field where clubroot is confirmed by a laboratory test in the first year that canola is seeded following completion of a Clubroot Pest Notice rotation restriction. This indicates that previous rotation restrictions were not effective in managing clubroot risk within the field.

4.2 Where a field is designated as a Chronic Clubroot Field:

- a) A minimum one-in-four (1 in 4) year crop rotation restriction shall be applied, regardless of the current incidence level;
- b) The field may be subject to increased inspection and monitoring frequency;
- c) The owner and occupant may be required to implement specific management practices as directed by the Agricultural Service Board;
- d) The field may be subject to additional soil or plant testing, including testing to identify clubroot pathotypes, where deemed necessary by the Agricultural Service Board to support management decisions. Any costs associated with such testing would be the responsibility of the owner and occupant.
- e) A field may be removed from Chronic Clubroot Field status where canola is grown following the prescribed rotation and subsequent inspection, conducted in accordance with the County's Clubroot Code of Practice, confirms no detectable presence of clubroot.

Council Approval: February 9, 2016
Amended: April 9, 2019
Amended: December 14, 2021
Amended: May 27, 2025
Amended: June 23, 2026

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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.
 - d. Standard 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.

2. Inspections will be conducted by the Agricultural Fieldman for the County of St. Paul, or an Inspector appointed by Council. 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.
 - Surveyed in a W-pattern, a minimum of 50 plants will be pulled by the inspector as they move from the access point to the right side of the field. If symptoms are found, a total of 100 plants will be pulled at 10 points along the W-pattern, spaced approximately 100 meters apart. If 10 or fewer plants show symptoms of Clubroot, the incidence will be considered low. If more than 10 plants show visible signs of Clubroot, the incidence will be considered high.
 - If applicable the plants will be sent in to a certified lab for a clubroot test.

3. The owner and occupant 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.

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4. 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.
5. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) will assist the owner and occupant in developing a management strategy that will attempt to prevent the further spread of clubroot.
6. 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 owner as set out in the Province of Alberta's Agricultural Pest Act.
7. This document should be reviewed annually.