



County of Lethbridge Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE: March 5, 2009

SECTION: 600 NO. 628 Pge 1 of 2

APPROVED BY: County Council

POSITION DESCRIPTION:
To Control the Spread of Clubroot

REVISED DATE:

The County of Lethbridge recognizes that Clubroot of Canola is a serious pest problem and supports the principle to control the spread of Clubroot which has been declared a pest under the Agricultural Pest Act. Under the Pest Control Act, it is the responsibility of a local authority to prevent the establishment of, or to control or destroy pests in a municipality.

Field Surveys

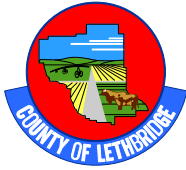
- Random Clubroot field surveys should be conducted where Canola, Mustard and Cole crops are grown.
- Clubroot survey method, reporting form and calculation of disease incidence must follow standard protocols (sampling techniques) provided by the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee.
- Positive survey results for an individual grower must be confirmed by a laboratory test.
- Survey results and legal locations of infested fields should be made available to renters, landowners and other parties with genuine commercial interest.

Disease Spread Reduction

- Where Clubroot is confirmed the occupant shall not plant canola or other susceptible crops in the following years as set out by the County of Lethbridge. Proper cleaning of field equipment prior to transport from infested fields is required.

Best Management Practices

- Canola growers in high risk situations should follow traditional Canola rotation recommendations (1 in 4) years. Although this will not prevent the introduction of Clubroot to clean fields, long rotations will keep introductions of Clubroot at low levels.
- The owner or occupants of the land on which a notice has been issued who are disturbing the soil will be required to follow the “Best Management Guidelines” set out by Alberta Agriculture and Food in the Clubroot Management Plan to reduce the spread of the disease through movement of soil and equipment.



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- The area next to the exit from the field should be grassed to facilitate equipment washing. Where the exit is close to a field that has been infested with Clubroot a new exit should be established as far away from the field as possible.
- Grain (Canola, Cereals, Pulses, etc.) from infested fields should not be kept as seed. Straw should not be baled and removed from infested fields.
- Volunteer Canola and Crucifer Weeds must be controlled on infected fields before three weeks of growth has occurred to prevent the production of new resting spores.
- Equipment traffic from infested fields **must** be **disinfected with acceptance practice of disinfectant (steam cleaning, weak bleach solution for cleaning)**. Minimum tillage systems are recommended partly due to less machinery from the field compared to conventional tillage. Minimum tillage systems also reduce the risk of soil erosion thus decrease the risk of spread of Clubroot.
- Scout the fields regularly to identify the causes of poor crop growth.