

**Policy statement**

Leduc County Agricultural Services will inspect private and public lands for the presence of clubroot in canola as a requirement under the *Province of Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*, Section 10(1) “*The local authority of a municipality shall appoint a sufficient number of inspectors to carry out this Act and the regulations within the municipality.*”

**Definitions**

*Regulation* means *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (amended) 87/2020, *Province of Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*.

*Inspector* means a person appointed as an inspector, including an inspector by virtue of office under the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*.

*Owner* as defined by the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act* means

- (i) in the case of land, a person who is registered under the *Alberta Land Titles Act* as the owner of land, or
- (ii) in the case of personal property, a person who is in lawful possession of it or who has the right to exercise control over it

*Pest* means an animal, bird, insect, plant, or disease declared to be a pest in accordance with the regulation.

**Policy authority**

*Legislative implications:*

- *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act and Regulation*
- *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

*Bylaw implications:*

- Leduc County Land Use Bylaw, specifically Part 6 (Site Levelling, Infilling, Grading & Stockpiling)

*Municipal policy implications:*

- EO-02 Agricultural Pests Enforcement Obligations

**Policy standards**

1. Clubroot inspections will be conducted in accordance with relevant legislation.
2. The detection of clubroot will be identified and the relevant information will be transferred to property owner and/or producer on an ongoing basis.
3. Issue notices and enforce the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act* as required:
  - A notice would include a three-year restriction on the growth of canola on the verified field. In the fourth year, a clubroot-resistant canola variety may be grown.
  - If a field is confirmed positive to a pathotype to which there is no resistant variety commercially-available, the restriction would be for three years. After three years:
    - When there is not a variety that is resistant to the pathotype commercially available, the restriction will continue to be renewed each year until there is a resistant variety commercially available.

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- When a variety that is resistant to the pathotype is commercially available, the restriction will be lifted and that variety may be grown in the next growing season. A further requirement for a Management Plan signed by the property owner/producer (renter, where applicable) and submitted to Leduc County would be included in the notice.
  - A notice would be issued on land that is introducing imported soil material contaminated with clubroot if the imported soil contains a higher level of infestation than the native soil of the land in question.
4. All clubroot inspections will be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines in the Leduc County Clubroot Inspection Administrative Procedure.

**Policy responsibilities**

*Council responsibilities:*

Council will,

- Approve the Control of Clubroot Disease in Canola Policy.
- Appoint an independent committee annually to hear and determine appeals received by the municipality against notices issued by an inspector under the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*.
- Appoint clubroot inspectors under the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act* as required by the Act to conduct clubroot inspections.

*Administration responsibilities:*

Administration will,

- Ensure compliance with all current legislated requirements and municipal policies.
- Ensure that clubroot inspection program requirements are budgeted for annually.
- Implement and maintain inspection and enforcement procedures in reference to the presence of clubroot in canola.
- Provide training and support for inspectors.

Inspectors will,

- Adhere to the Leduc County Clubroot Inspection Administrative Procedure and enforcement procedures as specified by the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*.
- Deliver services and documentation in relation to the inspection of private and public lands for the presence of clubroot.
- Provide recommendations to producers and property owners on effective management of clubroot on verified and non-verified infected fields.
- Issue a notice when non-compliance of the standards set out in this policy is determined.
- Respond to development application referrals with respect to risks associated with the movement of soil.

**Monitoring and updating**

- This policy will be posted on Leduc County’s website.
- This policy will be reviewed at least once every year.

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