

SECTION: Agricultural Services **03-03a**
SUBJECT: Agricultural Pests
POLICY NAME: Clubroot
POLICY DEPT(S): Agricultural Services, Property Administration, Municipal Services
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 10, 2024 **LAST AMENDED:** December 2024
BOARD MOTION: 22-40-24 **REVIEW DATE:** December 2025

PURPOSE:

To protect the economic viability of agricultural production in the Special Areas by preventing the establishment and limiting the spread of clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) on the lands within it because of the significant threat it poses to canola production in the Special Areas.

The Special Areas Board recognizes the threat posed by species designated as a pest in the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*; and the associated municipal responsibilities, as outlined in Section 6: (6) *A local authority of a municipality shall take active measures (a) to prevent the establishment of, or (b) to control or destroy, pests in the municipality.*

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Special Areas Board (SAB), through its Agricultural Services Department will implement program objectives that serve the purpose of this policy and include:

1. Preventative efforts will include education and awareness initiatives to be promoted by the Agricultural Service Boards and Agricultural Services Department.
2. The appointed Agricultural Fieldmen will act as inspectors under the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA).
 - i. Seasonal Agricultural Services staff involved in clubroot inspection will be annually appointed and trained as additional inspectors under the APA.
3. Inspections will be carried out annually throughout the Special Areas as per practices outlined by the Agricultural Services Department. Location criteria will be based on random selection and risk assessment determined by the Agricultural Fieldmen.
4. Verification of positive identification of clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) will follow procedures set out by the Special Areas Board Agricultural Services Department.
5. If clubroot is found, and verified within the Special Areas, the landowner shall receive a Pest Notice following the Agricultural Services Department procedure that adheres to the APA requirements.
 - i. The owner or occupant(s) of the land will be responsible for following the best management practices outlined in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan (ACMP), developed by the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee,

to minimize the spread of the disease with the movement of soil and equipment.

- ii. At minimum it shall require that no host crops be seeded on the property for four (4) years.
- iii. As per the APA the landowners & occupants adjacent to the affected property will also be notified of the presence of clubroot.
- iv. Vehicles or equipment accessing any affected lands included in a notice, will be subject to following a sanitation plan based upon best management practices in the ACMP, that has been approved by the Agricultural Fieldman. Signage detailing access restrictions will be posted by the Agricultural Services Department at property entry points. Special Areas rental equipment will not be used on land that has tested positive for clubroot.
- v. If a host crop is sown on land that has been verified positive for clubroot and a notice has been issued on this property restricting the growth of host crops, the host crop shall be destroyed.
- vi. Mitigation measures or best practice requirements, at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman, may be applied to any discretionary permit or agreement granted by the Special Areas Board where conditions may be placed for activities or projects that risk moving or importing topsoil or remnants that potentially host the clubroot pathogen.

SCOPE:**Applicable Legislation and References**

- *Special Areas Act* (RSA 2000, S-16)
- *Agricultural Service Board Act* (RSA 2000, A-10)
- *Agricultural Pests Act* (2008, W-5.1)
- All attendant Regulations and SAB policies
- Alberta Clubroot Management Plan

APPROVAL:

To be reviewed on an annual basis by the Agricultural Service Boards and changes approved by the SAB/ Chair.



Jordon Christianson, Chair
Special Areas Board