

STRATHCONA COUNTY CLUBROOT INSPECTION PROCEDURE

Purpose

Strathcona County recognizes that clubroot is a serious threat to producers. A proactive inspection program will allow Strathcona County to provide timely education and promotion of best management practices to minimize further spread of the disease.

Initial Planning

All canola fields and fields found with volunteer canola will be inspected for the presence of clubroot. Fields known to have clubroot from the previous year will be inspected to ensure that canola is not being grown.

The inspector will inspect all canola fields within Strathcona County beginning in July until the end of September.

Inspection Procedures

1. During the field inspection, vehicles will be parked in the approach to the field or in a safe location adjacent to the field. Vehicles will not be driven or parked in the field.
2. Before entering the field for inspection, ensure that disposable boot covers are worn to stop the transfer of clubroot from field to field.
3. Location of the field will be verified and recorded on the inspection report.
4. Plants will be assessed for possible signs of clubroot including premature ripening, wilting, stunting and yellowing.
5. If visible signs of clubroot exist, the crop will be inspected in a "W" pattern adjacent to field approaches and in areas of visible symptoms; if identified, a more intensive sampling grid will be used.
6. If clubroot is detected, the landowner/farmer will be contacted and inspection and sample submission will be carried out with the landowner/farmer present.
7. A minimum of ten plants will be pulled in the configured inspection pattern to ensure best representation of the crop. If the presence of clubroot is found, the inspector shall take a plant sample for laboratory analysis (PCR). This sample should be bagged, labeled with the field location and recorded in the inspection report.
8. Upon leaving the suspect field, disposable boot covers will be removed, disposed of in a garbage bag and sent to a landfill.
9. Plant samples should be taken to a certified lab within 48 hours for verification.

Upon positive verification of the presence of clubroot, the inspector will notify landowner(s) of the results in person to discuss a management plan to reduce the spread of the disease. The management plan will include education, preventative measures and crop rotations to ensure that the disease is isolated. A "Notice to Control Pests" notification may be issued outlining the plan of action to be taken by the landowner.

Under very light infestation (1-3 positive out of 10 samples and dependant on field location and infestation location) the occupant shall not plant canola or other susceptible crops in the following 3 years. Proper sanitation for field equipment is advisable prior to transport from infected fields.

Under moderate or high infestations (4 or more positive out of 10 samples) the occupant shall not plant canola or other susceptible crops for 5 subsequent years. Proper sanitation of field equipment will be mandatory.