RM *of* Francis
No. 127

Re: The Prevention and Management of Clubroot in the RM of Francis No. 127

Attention Ratepayers in the RM of Francis No. 127.

Clubroot is a serious disease of cruciferous plants such as canola that can cause devastating yield losses. It is a soil borne disease that is easily transferred via contaminated soil residing on equipment, seed, etc. and there are limited options for controlling this disease.

The Rural Municipality of Francis No. 127supports the principle to control the spread of clubroot, which has been declared a pest under *The Pest Control Act* in Saskatchewan. By way of this letter we want to inform all of our ratepayers about the disease and suggest best practices that can be adopted to decrease the risks of contracting or spreading clubroot.

Section 4 of *The Pest Control Act* states that every person shall take measures to destroy clubroot or any crop, vegetation, vegetable, or other matter that may contain clubroot in order to control and prevent the spread of clubroot on any land or premises owned, occupied or controlled by that person.

The following is a list of best practices recommended in the provincially recognized Saskatchewan Clubroot Management Plan that landowners/occupants should adopt to prevent and manage clubroot.

1. Crop Rotations: Plant susceptible crops, including clubroot resistant canola varieties, no more than once every four years.
2. Scout crops regularly and carefully.
   - Identify suspicious above-ground symptoms including wilting, stunting, yellowing and premature ripening of canola or other susceptible crops.
   - Field entrances and approaches are likely to be contaminated with clubroot spores first. Therefore, symptoms will often appear there first.
   - Confirm cause of above ground symptoms by checking the roots for galls.
3. If clubroot is suspected, inform the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture by contacting the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (1-866-457-2377) or your local Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture regional office.
4. If clubroot is confirmed to be present then please contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre and the RM Office so they can assist you in developing/implementing an effective clubroot management plan.
5. Practice good sanitation by restricting movement of potentially contaminated soil to non-contaminated regions.
   a. For Saskatchewan producers, this means restricting entry into their fields of vehicles, field machinery or oil rig equipment with earth tag from infested regions unless it has been properly sanitized.
   b. Ask questions about where the equipment is from and what sanitation measures have been used before the equipment left the infested area, dealer or auction site.
6. Clubroot spores may survive livestock digestion. Avoid use of straw, hay, greenfeed, silage and manure from infested or suspect areas.

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We also wanted to inform ratepayers that also as outlined in the Act under Section 17 the municipality may have appointed officer(s) conducting random clubroot field inspections throughout the RM to monitor for clubroot.

In order for the municipality to achieve their mandate under *The Pest Control Act,* Section 12, it has enacted a municipal bylaw requiring that: every owner and occupant of land shall notify the municipality in which the land is located of the presence of clubroot, within 30 days of confirmation of the presence of clubroot, and provide the exact location of the disease.

Once the RM is notified a municipal appointed officer(s) will work with the impacted landowner(s)/occupant(s) to devise an effective clubroot prevention/management plan by way of an agreement or municipal order which outlines the methods to be used, timelines and other requirements. This is in accordance with *The Pest Control Act,* Section 19.

We ask for your cooperation in helping the municipality prevent and manage this serious disease by adhering to these best practices to both prevent and manage clubroot.

For more information on clubroot please visit www.clubroot.ca or www.agr.gov.sk.ca or contact the Saskatchewan Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the RMs clubroot policies or bylaws please contact the RM of Francis No. 127 @ 1-306-245-3256.

D J Shaw

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