



January 18, 2019

News Release

Clubroot Confirmed in Kneehill County

The first occurrence of Clubroot was recently confirmed in Kneehill County. Clubroot is a serious soil-borne crop disease that affects canola and other cruciferous crops. Clubroot causes the formation of galls on the roots, which leads to premature death of the plant. Clubroot was first confirmed in Alberta in 2003 when it was found in a canola field northwest of Edmonton, and it was declared as a pest under the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act* in 2007.

Clubroot is spread mainly through the movement of soil containing Clubroot spores, typically transported on equipment, vehicles, and through erosion. Clubroot spores have a long half-life of approximately 4 years, however spores have been shown to survive up to 20 years in soil. There is currently no treatment for this crop disease, however it can be effectively managed to reduce the severity of its impact on crop yield. Best management practices for Clubroot include: regular scouting of fields, appropriate crop rotation, seeding resistant canola varieties, and sanitizing / washing equipment.

The Kneehill County Agricultural Services staff survey canola fields in the County for Clubroot on an annual basis, and encourage all canola growers to scout their fields also. A critical step in managing Clubroot is early detection. Symptoms of Clubroot in canola may present as galls on the root of the plant, premature ripening, wilting of the plant, and stunted growth. Clubroot is commonly found in the entrances to fields, but it can occur in any portion of a field.

If you require more information or if you would like an inspector to survey your field, please contact Kneehill County Agricultural Services at 403-443-5541, or visit our website, www.kneehillcounty.com.

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