

AFSC ASSIST IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF REGULATED CROP PESTS

- WHEREAS:** Crop diseases are becoming more prevalent and wide spread in Alberta due to shortened crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Disease resistance is breaking down more quickly due to shortened crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Longer crop rotations can significantly decrease pest and disease infestations;
- WHEREAS:** Most crop producers carry crop insurance through the provincial crown corporation Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC);
- WHEREAS:** AFSC has the ability to promote better and longer crop rotations by declining or pricing insurance in a manner that discourages short crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Other jurisdictions such as Saskatchewan use their provincial Crown corporations for crop insurance to promote recommended crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** The Minister has the ability under the Agricultural Pests Act Section 3(d) to enter into an agreement with AFSC to prevent establishment of or control or destroy pests;
- WHEREAS:** During the 2015 ASB Provincial Conference Resolution #1 ADAPT CROP INSURANCE TO PROTECT CLUBROOT TOLERANT VARIETIES was passed. The resolution requested similar actions to be taken, the response report card deemed actions taken to be unsatisfactory;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry per section 3(d) of the Agricultural Pests Act enter into an agreement with AFSC to decline insurance on canola acres under their program if canola has been planted back to back in rotation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry per section 3(d) of the Agricultural Pests Act enter into an agreement with AFSC to impose an insurance premium on land which has been planted to canola in contradiction to the Province's Clubroot Management Plan.

SPONSORED BY:	Kneehill County
MOVED BY:	<hr/>
SECONDED BY:	<hr/>
CARRIED:	<hr/>
DEFEATED:	<hr/>
STATUS:	Provincial
DEPARTMENT:	<hr/>

BACKGROUND

Kneehill County has recently confirmed clubroot in its borders, and in addition nearly all surrounding municipalities have also confirmed clubroot. As an Agricultural Service Board we constantly promote and emphasize the importance of good crop rotations to prevent yield loss due to disease, pests and other invasive species that are detrimental to crop production. Despite these efforts many producers have actually tightened rotations so much so that some are growing canola and other crops back to back. The introduction of resistant varieties has provided a false sense of security for many producers reducing their fear of contracting clubroot or other diseases.

In 2003, the first report of clubroot in a commercial canola field in Canada was identified near Edmonton. In April 2007 clubroot was declared a pest under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act and the province developed a Clubroot Management Plan to assist municipalities in dealing with this pest. In 2011 the first clubroot resistant varieties of canola were introduced in Alberta. However, due to continued poor rotational cropping practices, breakdown in resistance of these varieties occurred, which has led to the establishment of new pathotypes. In 2013 the first pathotypes were identified in two fields- this has since multiplied substantially to over 192 fields and 17 different pathotypes, 11 of which can break resistance as of December 2018.

Since 2003, clubroot has spread and is now found in over 3000 fields in this province affecting 40 counties plus the cities of Edmonton, Medicine Hat, and the Town of Stettler, and continues to spread at a rate of 20km/year. The map below shows where clubroot has been found and the color code indicates the number of fields that have been found in the affected municipalities.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT - Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter A-8

Current as of November 1, 2014

Section 3

Powers of Minister

3(1) The Minister may

- (a) investigate any matter,
- (b) conduct surveys,
- (c) establish programs, or
- (d) enter into agreements with any person, local authority, agency or government,

for the purpose of preventing the establishment of, controlling or destroying a pest or nuisance and preventing or reducing damage caused by a pest or nuisance.

(2) The Minister may exempt any land from the operation of all or part of this Act.

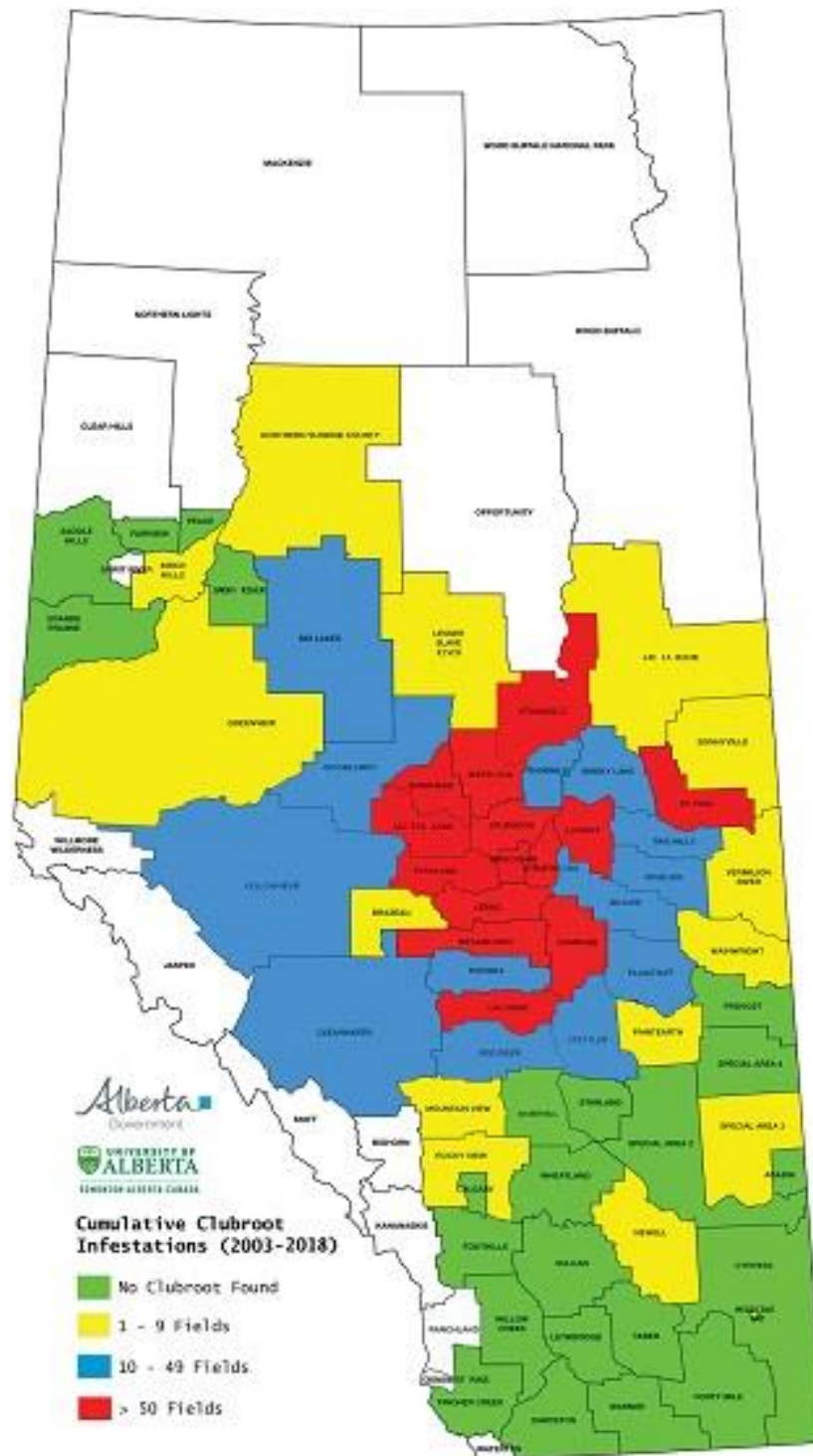


Figure 1. Alberta Clubroot Map: Cumulative clubroot infestations as of December 2018. Map courtesy of S.E. Strelkov, University of Alberta and M. Hartman, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.