

DESIGN BULLETIN #73/2010

Control of Clubroot in Soil Disturbance Work

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Clubroot, caused by *Plasmodiophora brassicae*, is a serious disease of cruciferous crops (i.e. mustards, canola, etc.) which can result in reduced to severe yield losses. Clubroot was declared a pest under Alberta's *Agricultural Pests Act* in April 2007. The Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Food is responsible for this Act. However, enforcement is the responsibility of the Agricultural Service Board located in each municipality. Agricultural Fieldmen are delegated the responsibility for enforcing pest control measures in their municipality.

The most desirable approach to managing clubroot in Alberta is through a proactive program designed to prevent the spread of this pathogen including the use of good sanitation practices to restrict the movement of potentially contaminated soil. This applies to all parties (consultants and contractors) undertaking any soil disturbance activities both within and outside of the right-of-way.

Alberta Transportation has developed the following protocol in order to protect all stakeholders from the potential of clubroot infestations when performing soil disturbance work.

DETAILS

The Consultant shall:

1. Review the Best Management Practices outlined in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan which is available on-line at the following location.
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519)
2. Contact the local Agricultural Fieldman to determine if the project limits are impacted by clubroot infestations and what specific control measures are to be followed. This is to be completed prior to undertaking any soil disturbance activity such as preliminary soil survey, hydrovac, topsoil survey, etc.
3. Ensure that any control measures specified by the Agricultural Fieldmen are incorporated into the Environmental Risk Assessment and addressed in the Contractor's ECO Plan documents.
4. Insert appropriate special provisions, where required, to outline the Contractor's responsibility under the *Agricultural Pests Act*. The current special provision is *SpE022 Clubroot*.
5. Monitor the Contractor's activities to ensure that best management practices and ECO Plan requirements are being followed. As a minimum this would require that all equipment, either entering or leaving the site, is to be cleaned by removing soil lumps and sweeping off any loose soil. Cleaning of the equipment is also required when moving between fields.

IMPLEMENTATION

This design bulletin is effective immediately for all projects involving soil disturbance work.

CONTACTS


Any questions with regard to this Design Bulletin should be directed to Alberta Transportation's Technical Standards Branch (Attention: Carlene Godwin, Terrestrial Resources Specialist at 780-422-7486).

REFERENCES

- Alberta Clubroot Management Plan (February 2008, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development) - [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519)
- Agricultural Fieldmen's Directory (March 2010, Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen) - http://www.aaaf.ab.ca/images/stories/aaaf_members_complete.pdf

Recommended:

Approved:



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