



# BIG LAKES COUNTY POLICY



<b>TITLE:</b> Verticillium Wilt of Canola	
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b> ASB Policy 20	
<b>LEGAL AUTHORITY:</b> Big Lakes County Bylaw 10-2021	
<b>APPROVED BY COUNCIL:</b> June 9, 2021	
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> June 9, 2021	<b>REVISED DATE:</b>

### Policy Statement

The Council of the Big Lakes County recognizes that Verticillium Wilt of Canola is a concern to agricultural operations within the municipality. Council further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to establish measures to prevent and/or control Verticillium Wilt of Canola.

### Policy

#### **Prevention**

Agricultural Services staff shall

- a. Ensure current verticillium wilt awareness resource material is available to the public;
- b. The County will continue to educate the public on Verticillium Wilt and encourage producer compliance with any and all provincial verticillium wilt management plan(s);
- c. In the event of disease detection, provide additional producer awareness extension activities (informational meetings / workshops, with displays, publications and/or specialist speakers).

#### **Surveillance**

1. Upon the recommendation of the Agricultural Fieldman, Council shall appoint individuals to serve as "inspectors" for the purposes of this policy and as stipulated in Big Lakes County Bylaw 10-2021
2. The Agricultural Fieldman shall schedule annual inspection of Canola fields within the County.
3. The Agricultural Fieldman shall establish biosecurity protocols to be followed by inspectors while conducting inspections. Protocols shall be designed to minimize disease transferal between fields by inspectors and shall follow current Best Management Practices for the detection of verticillium wilt as set out by University of Alberta protocols.

#### **Control**

1. Positive Fields
  - a. The owner of lands lab-confirmed positive for verticillium wilt shall be encouraged to adopt the current best management practices for the control of verticillium wilt and follow a 1-3 rotation.
  - b. Should the producer refuse to follow these guidelines voluntarily, a Notice to Remedy for the infested land, including a destruction of crop order as per Control 3(c), may be issued by Big Lakes County Council as per the Big Lakes County Bylaw 10-2021.



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- c. If a producer fails to abide by the Notice to Remedy, the Agricultural Fieldman may, upon resolution of Council:
  - i. Destroy the planted crop through chemical means, to prevent soil disturbance and movement, if the producer does not do so themselves.
  - ii. Should the municipality destroy the crop, an invoice shall be issued to the producer for the labour, chemical and equipment costs of the crop's destruction.
2. After the period of restriction has expired, canola may be seeded. The land(s) in question will be sampled with each planting of canola indefinitely. Should verticillium wilt be detected, a new Notice to Remedy may be issued.

ASB Policy No. 20 shall be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects the latest scientific advancements and knowledge regarding the verticillium wilt pathogen.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Date of Final Signature