



# 2024 Clubroot Monitoring Program in Saskatchewan

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The Plant Health Act recently came into force and replaced The Pest Control Act as the legislation

To date, there are 82 confirmed commercial canola fields with visible clubroot symptoms in Saskatchewan, though most areas of the province still report no visible clubroot symptoms. Even though clubroot is deregulated, it is essential to remain vigilant about its presence and potential threats and continue to follow best practices for clubroot management.

The 2024 clubroot monitoring program in Saskatchewan incorporates:

- on-farm voluntary soil DNA testing (in partnership with SaskCanola);
- a permission-based, clubroot-specific survey in high-risk areas of the province;
- permission-based, in-field surveillance through the general canola disease survey;
- supporting producers on management of clubroot in already infected fields; and
- raising awareness and promoting integrated pest management.

The information collected will be used to monitor the distribution of clubroot in the province and to update the [Saskatchewan Clubroot Distribution Map](#) at the rural municipality (RM) level.

### 1. On-farm voluntary soil DNA testing (in partnership with SaskCanola)

DNA-based soil testing will be used to detect if the clubroot pathogen is present in the soil but at low enough levels to not result in disease symptoms. This testing method provides early detection of the clubroot pathogen so management strategies can be used to keep the pathogen at low levels and minimize impacts on yield.

DNA findings through this program will be communicated only to the submitter producer/agrologist specifically for the purpose of providing agronomic information, with no additional follow-up if the test is positive. Ministry staff, however, can offer information and resources on managing clubroot.

Producers can pick up soil testing bags and instructions on how to collect a sample from a [Ministry of Agriculture regional office](#), a Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) plant health technical advisor, or a participating rural municipality office. Producers will not be asked to provide specific field legal land description or GIS co-ordinates of where the soil sample has been taken from. The location of positive fields will only be provided at the RM level on the [Clubroot Distribution in Saskatchewan](#) map as a way to raise awareness of disease risk in the region.

Bags will be available to industry agrologists who are interested in sampling fields on behalf of their clients. The producer's contact information is required before the soil sample will be processed. If you are an agrologist and would like to receive a bundle of soil testing bags, please contact [SaskCanola](#) at 306-975-0262.

Soil testing bags will be available by late-August and producers and agrologists have until November 1, 2024, to submit the collected soil samples for lab analysis.



surveyors will follow strict biosecurity protocols to prevent the spread of clubroot or other crop pests.

### **3. General canola disease survey**

The general canola disease survey is conducted annually and will include 150 to 200 fields located across the province. This survey is completed primarily by ministry staff, SARM plant health technical advisors, and volunteers (including industry agrologists). The survey includes assessing canola plants for the presence of all diseases, including clubroot. The general canola disease survey, including soil testing for clubroot, will only be conducted on fields where the producer or landowner has granted permission to do so.

### **4. Raising awareness about integrated pest management**

The ministry will continue to raise awareness about integrated pest management strategies to effectively control clubroot through extension efforts. Free clubroot soil testing and pathotypes testing will be offered to interested producers.

### **5. Continued support to interested producers in managing previously clubroot-detected fields through offering free scouting and testing**

Producers operating on known clubroot-detected fields will be offered free scouting and testing. A letter will be sent to these producers emphasizing the value that further testing and scouting for clubroot will provide to their operation. This is not a mandatory follow-up; producers decide on whether they wish to participate. Last year, almost 70 per cent of the producers with previously clubroot-detected fields welcomed the program.

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