



Weed Control on County Property and Roadside Right-of-Ways

Agriculture Services
Policy D3

Policy:	D3 – Weed Control on County Property and Roadside Right-of-Ways
Policy Department(s):	Agriculture Services
Adoption Date:	N/A
Adoption Reference:	N/A
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Policy Purpose

To establish the process for the control of Noxious weeds and eradication of Prohibited Noxious weeds on County of Grande Prairie No.1 roadside right-of-ways.

Policy Statement

To enforce the Weed Control Act and therefore prevent and control the establishment and/or spread of noxious and/or prohibited noxious weeds.

Definitions

“Boom Spraying” means a mechanical structure with attached nozzles for distributing spray from a tank.

“County” means the municipality of the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 having jurisdiction under the Municipal Government Act and other applicable legislation.

“Dugouts” means an excavation that holds water for agricultural purposes.

“Herbicide” means a substance that is toxic to plants, used to destroy unwanted vegetation.

“Noxious Weeds” means a plant designated in accordance with the regulations as a noxious weed and includes the plants seeds.

“Prohibited Noxious Weed” means a plant designated in accordance with the regulations as a prohibited noxious weed and includes the plant’s seeds.

“Right-of-Ways” means a general term referring to land between property lines the part of the public road which includes shoulders and ditches.

“Shelterbelts” means a barrier of vegetation created to restrict the damaging effects of wind and soil erosion.



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Policy Guidelines

1. The Agriculture Department employs certified herbicide applicators to apply registered Herbicides within the County Right-of-Ways as per the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and the Pest Control Product Act.
2. All County roadside Rights-of-Ways will be subject to Herbicide application on a spot treatment basis where Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds are present.
3. Each year an advertisement shall be posted in the County newsletter, on the County website and in area newspapers prior to Herbicide application to inform the public.
4. Ratepayers may enter into a “No Spray Agreement” (Schedule A) with the County Agricultural Department whereby no Herbicides will be applied to roadsides adjacent to lands under their control.
 - 4.1. The ratepayers who enter into this agreement must fill out an agreement yearly and they must eradicate the Prohibited Noxious weeds and control the Noxious weeds on the roadsides adjacent to land under the Agreement.
 - 4.2. Should Noxious or Prohibited Noxious Weeds be found on roadsides under agreement, the Agricultural Service Board will give participants in this program five days to control or eradicate the weeds.
 - 4.3. If not controlled or eradicated in that time period, the Agricultural Service Board will control the weeds as the Agricultural Fieldman sees fit.
5. Weed infestations take priority over brush control. The County may apply Herbicides up to and into the edge of crops, pasture and hay.

Application on lands not owned by the County will only take place if: The landowner or operator has completed Herbicide Application Request Form.
6. Herbicide applications will be conducted when conditions are safe to do so and will be terminated when:
 - 6.1. Winds are in excess of 16 km per hour
 - 6.2. Visible drift is occurring
7. Herbicides will not be applied:
 - 7.1. To any area for which a “No Spray Agreement” has been entered;
 - 7.2. On roadsides within 30 meters of residential areas, dugouts, and shelterbelts. In the event these areas are infested with Noxious or Prohibited Noxious weeds, the applicator will ask permission from the occupant adjacent to the right of way to handgun or backpack spray the infestation.”.



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- 7.3. If a place of residence, dugout or shelterbelt is greater than 30 meters from the right of way or protected by 50 meters or greater of natural brush, boom spraying is allowed.
8. Beekeepers who express concern over the use of Herbicides near their hives will be treated as follows:
- 8.1. They will be requested to enter into the “No Spray Agreement” and will be asked to provide map(s) of the area(s) where their beehives are located
- 8.2. The County will use Herbicides with the lowest risk to bees where possible
- 8.3. Spraying/Spot spraying will occur during times bees are not active
9. Trials may be carried out on an ongoing basis as time permits to compare alternative weed and brush control methods. Innovative methods shall be researched and compared for effectiveness, cost and their safety to the environment. All trials will be coordinated through the Agricultural Fieldman.

Attachments

Schedule A – No Spray Agreement

References

Legal Authorities	Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26 Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act Pest Control Products Act Weed Control Act (2010) Weed Control Regulation (2010)
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, Etc.	Policy B1 – Policy Development Policy D5 – No Spray Program Herbicide Application Request Form – available on the County website
Other	Weed Control on County Property and Roadside Right-of-Ways Procedure

Revision History

Review Date	Description
August 22, 2022	Reviewed and Amended – CM20220822.008
May 9, 2016	Reviewed and Amended – CM20160509.1011
April 2, 2012	Reviewed and Amended – CM – 04-297-12

County of Grande Prairie No. 1**Roadside Noxious / Prohibited Noxious Weed and Brush Control Program****NO SPRAY AGREEMENT**

Due April 15, annually. Late applications will be subject to a \$25 administration fee.

I/We, the undersigned, hereby request that the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 refrain from the application of herbicides by the lands noted, which I/We own.

I/We hereby:

- Acknowledge and accept my/our duty to maintain that portion of the municipal roadway that lies between the boundary of my/our property and the centerline of the roadway, ensuring that it remains free of all Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds, and brush and/or tall vegetation (e.g., Sweet Clover) which may interfere with motorist sightlines. I/we acknowledge my/our duty to ensure that at all times:
 - a. Noxious weeds are prevented from flowering
 - b. Prohibited noxious weeds are completely destroyed (all parts of the plant)
 - c. brush and tall vegetation will be controlled
- Understand that if the weed and brush control is not implemented to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Fieldman for the County of Grande Prairie No. 1, registered participants in this program will be given five days to control the weeds and brush. If not controlled to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Fieldman, the Agricultural department will control the weeds and brush as the Agricultural Fieldman sees fit, and future exemptions may not be considered in subsequent years. Control methods may include the use of herbicides. No Spray areas will be inspected each year to ensure compliance with this agreement.
- Agree that this Agreement becomes null and void if any noxious or prohibited noxious weeds described by the Weed Control Act of Alberta, or any brush are found a second time in any areas covered under this agreement.
- Understand and agree that only the registered landowner may apply for No Spray Agreement on their property. If I/we lease/rent land, we hereby agree that it is our yearly responsibility to obtain the landowners permission and signature to participate in this program.
- Understand and agree that municipality right of ways shall in no way substitute for buffer zones for sensitive areas or vegetation designated for Organic Production.
- Understand and acknowledge that the No Spray Agreement is valid in the year it is signed, expiring December 31st of each year. All registrants must renew No Spray Agreements annually, and agreements must be received in the County office no later than April 15th of each year to be considered a participant in the County No Spray Program. I/We understand that failure to renew the No Spray Agreement and declare intent to continue participation in the program prior to the April 15th deadline will result my/our area being removed from the No Spray Program.

- Agree not to disturb the soil found in any part of the road right of way.
- Agree to indemnify and hold harmless the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 and all the Crown in Right of the Province of Alberta, their agents and employees, from any claims, demands, actions, and costs that may arise as a result of an act or omission in regard to this exemption.
- Understand that the County will supply no spray signs for each exempted area. Signs will be posted each spring by the Agriculture Department according to the diagram on the next page and will be recovered in the fall of each year. No spray signs remain the property of the County of Grande Prairie No.1 and must be returned in the event I/we are no longer a participant in the program.
- Understand and acknowledge that home-made No Spray signs will not be considered valid.
- Understand that no alterations to this form will be accepted.

Please indicate the method you intend to use to control any noxious or prohibited noxious weeds:

- ☐ mowing
☐ hand picking
☐ other (please describe) _____

Please indicate the method you intend to use to control any brush/tall vegetation:

- ☐ mowing
☐ slash and pile
☐ other (please describe) _____

The following plants are designated as Prohibited Noxious weeds in Alberta (complete eradication required):

Highlighted plants indicate those found in the County of Grande Prairie No. 1

Autumn Olive	Himalayan Balsam	Common Barberry	Red Bartsia
Common Buckthorn	Sulphur Cinquefoil	Common Crupina	Dyer's Woad
Eurasian Water Millfoil	Flowering Rush	Garlic Mustard	Jointed Goatgrass
Meadow Hawkweed	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Orange Hawkweed	Hoary Alyssum
Giant Hogweed	Pale Yellow Iris	Bighead Knapweed	Black Knapweed
Brown Knapweed	Diffuse Knapweed	Hybrid Knapweed	Meadow Knapweed
Russian Knapweed	Spotted Knapweed	Squarrose Knapweed	Tyrol Knapweed
Giant Knotweed	Hybrid Japanese	Japanese Knotweed	Purple Loosestrife
Medusahead	Yellow Nutsedge	Puncturevine	Tansy Ragwort
Rush Skeletonweed	Common St. John's Wort	Saltcedar	Saltlover
Yellow Star Thistle	Smallflower Tamarisk	Chinese Tamarisk	Marsh Thistle
Nodding Thistle	Plumeless Thistle		

The following plants are designated as Noxious in the Province of Alberta (control so cannot spread, reproduce/set seed, and/or destroy):

Highlighted plants indicate those found in the County of Grande Prairie No. 1

Blueweed	Common Baby's Breath	Downey Brome	Japanese brome
Field Bindweed	Scentless Chamomile	Creeping Bellflower	Tall Buttercup
White Cockle	Heart-podded Hoary Cress	Ox-Eye Daisy	Dame's Rocket
Black Henbane	Globe-podded Hoary	Common Mullein	Hound's Tongue
Field Scabious	Lens-podded Hoary Cress	Perennial Sowthistle	Leafy Spurge
Common Tansy	Broad-leaved Pepper-	Canada Thistle	Dalmation Toadflax
Great Burdock	Lesser Burdock	Woolly Burdock	Yellow Clematis
Yellow Toadflax			

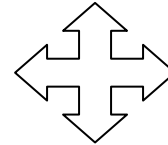
Please provide the land location of owned lands that you would like covered by this agreement, provide a separate page if more space is required. Rented/leased land requires a separate form signed by the landowner.

If you rent / lease the land you are farming:

- ☐ I have attached the forms signed by the landowner for any leased / rented land that I operate.

If the no spray area is less than the entire roadside along your lands, then please specify below which areas are not to be sprayed. (Please denote entrances, buildings, dugouts, shelterbelts and other landmarks) Please include in your diagram roads adjacent to your property as well as where you would like the no spray signs to be placed.

N



Check this box
☐ if diagram is
the same as last
year. (A new
diagram is not
required)

Name

Phone Number

Mailing Address

Rural Address

Email

☐ I would like to receive my No Spray Agreement via email next year.

Completed Forms can be submitted via the following methods:

- email to: nospray@countygp.ab.ca
- mail to: Agriculture Department, 10001 - 84th Ave., Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2
- fax: 780-567-5589

Extra forms can be obtained by emailing nospray@countygp.ab.ca or by going to the County website and searching: No Spray Agreement Program.

I/We hereby agree to be bound by the preceding agreement to cover the lands designated in this agreement that are owned by Me/Us:

Landowner Signature

Date

Witness

Date

Please ensure you have completed all portions of this form. Failure to do so will result in this form being returned to you for completion.

This agreement has been reviewed and accepted by the County of Grande Prairie No. 1:

Agricultural Fieldman

Date