



Weed Inspection

Agriculture Services
Policy D12

Policy:	D12 – Weed Inspection
Policy Department(s):	Agriculture Services
Adoption Date:	April 14, 2003
Adoption Reference:	04/273/2003
Effective Date:	April 14, 2003
Last Amended:	December 12, 2022

Policy Purpose

To prevent and control the establishment and/or spread of regulated weeds as mandated by the Alberta Weed Control Act. Further, to minimize erosion, prevent cross-contamination for pedigree seed growers and ensure timely and effective grass establishment on roadside rights of way.

Policy Statement

The Agricultural Service Board is responsible for developing and delivering a weed control program within the County of Grande Prairie No.1. This policy will be used to guide that program, make the responsibilities of all parties clear and set out a timetable for the achievement of the objectives. All residents and agricultural producers, whether organic or conventional, are subject to this policy.

Definitions

"Control" means to inhibit the growth or spread, or to destroy.

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

"Destroy" means to kill all growing parts, or to render reproductive mechanisms non-viable.

"Inspector" means a person appointed by Council as an inspector under the authority of the Act.

"Integrated Pest Management" means a variety of pest management techniques that focus on pest prevention, pest reduction and the elimination of conditions that lead to pest infestations.

"Noxious Weed" means a plant designated in accordance with the Alberta Weed Control Act as a noxious weed and includes the plant seeds.

"Pedigree Seed" means a recorded purity of a strain of seed.

"Prohibited Noxious Weed" means a plant designated in accordance with the Alberta Weed Control Act as a prohibited noxious weed and includes the plant seeds.



Weed Inspection

Agriculture Services
Policy D12

“Roadside Rights of Way” means a general term referring to land between property lines, the part of the public road which includes shoulders and ditches.

Policy Guidelines

Objective

1. The County, Agriculture Services Department works closely with landowners to combat Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weed problems in the area. The Agriculture Services Department provides technical support and encourages landowners to control the infestation and spread of these weeds. Weeds identified as Noxious or Prohibited Noxious will be controlled or destroyed as outlined in the Provincial Weed Control Act. Control methods including cultural, chemical, mechanical, and biological, and these form the Integrated Pest Management strategy.

Responsibilities

2. The Agricultural Department will:
 - 2.1. Conduct control operations on municipal lands including roadside rights of way.
If the landowner requests a No Spray Agreement on the roadside right of way adjacent to their land, it becomes the landowner’s responsibility to control or destroy the Noxious or Prohibited Noxious weeds on the roadside right(s) of way covered under their Agreement.
 - 2.2. Conduct a weed inspection and enforcement program on private land, crown land, including transportation corridors, and industrial sites.
If the landowner registers their land in the “Register Your Weed Management Plan” program, inspection will be carried out as directed by that program.
 - 2.3. Work with the Provincial Government to conduct awareness sessions in weed identification and control. This will be in the form of public awareness sessions, newsletters, brochures, and ads in area newspapers and/or radio.
3. Landowners will:
 - 3.1. Control and destroy infestations of Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds respectively, by active measures such as herbicide application, mechanical methods, or a combination of methods resulting in an Integrated Pest Management plan. Information on these methods can be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Fieldman’s office.
 - 3.2. Prevent the spread of weed seeds by using proper sanitation and recommended farming practices.
4. Others:
 - 4.1. Industries, truckers, seed cleaning plants and others are expected to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of Regulated weed seeds in



Weed Inspection

Agriculture Services
Policy D12

contaminated hay, equipment, gravel, seed grain or other materials. Loads must be properly tarped. Contaminated materials are not to be transported unless authorization is obtained from the Agriculture Department. Transportation of contaminated materials is otherwise forbidden under the Act.

Our citizens are reminded that their co-operation is needed if the County is to meet its weed control objectives. Effectively managing regulated weeds will contribute to greater crop yields and decreased weed control expenses for agricultural producers and county residents.

5. Weed Inspectors:
 - 5.1. The County will employ an adequate number of knowledgeable Weed Inspectors. Each Inspector will be properly trained in all facets of weed inspection and as an Authorized Assistant pesticide applicator and may apply herbicide under the supervision and license of the Agricultural Fieldman or appropriately certified designate.
 - 5.2. Inspectors will do routine inspections and respond to ratepayers' concerns. When Regulated weeds are identified, Inspectors will inform the landowner by attempting to meet with them in person. If the Inspector is unable to meet the landowner, he/she will leave an information package to explain the purpose of their visit and any concerns arising and requesting them to contact the weed inspector within 1 week to advise them of the measures the landowner will take. If the landowner does not respond or has not taken any control measures, the inspector will attempt contact by telephone, and further time to control regulated weeds may be given. If this proves unsuccessful a Weed Notice may be issued. The landowner will be given one week from date of issuance to control the weeds.
6. The Agricultural Service Board expects landowners to live up to their responsibility of weed control. If control is not completed at the expiration of the Notice, the County will either employ a Contractor to conduct the weed control work as outlined in the Notice and according to the Weed Control Act, or perform the enforcement themselves. Charges for non-compliance may also be considered, as outlined under the Act. The land owner/occupant will be responsible for the cost of weed control. Failure to pay will result in the sum owing being applied to the tax roll or collected in Court, as per the Act.
7. When regulated weeds are found later in the season and control or eradication methods are no longer a viable option, the landowner/occupant will be notified, and follow-up by a Weed Inspector will occur no later than June 1st the following year.
8. Landowners may appeal a Weed Notice in accordance with the Weed Control Regulation. Rental spraying equipment is available to landowners.

Attachments

N/A



Weed Inspection

Agriculture Services
Policy D12

References

Legal Authorities	Weed Control Act, Statutes of Alberta, 2008 Chapter W-5.1 Weed Control Regulation, Alberta Regulation 19/2010
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, Etc.	Policy B1 – Policy Development Policy D10 – Rental Equipment Policy Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw
Other	Register Your Weed Management Plan Program

Revision History

Review Date	Description
December 12, 2022	Reviewed and Amended CM20221212.013
May 9, 2016	Reviewed and Amended CM 20160509.1013
October 15, 2012	Reviewed and Amended CM 10-1035-12
April 2, 2012	Reviewed and Amended CM 04-297-12
April 14, 2003	Adoption Date CM 04/273/2003