

## NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

### POLICY NUMBER 083/03

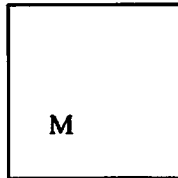
#### WEED CONTROL POLICY- AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

**PURPOSE:** Achieve a level of weed control that meets Legislative requirements and is consistent and fair.

**REASON:** In the Agricultural area crop production can be reduced or production costs increased by the presence of weeds, however their regulation must be fair/consistent throughout the County.

**POLICY:** Definitions:

- a) "M" Count" – an exact quantitative measurement used to determine the level of a weed infestation on a field, which shall be undertaken as follows: On a full quarter section start 100 paces from any property line. Take 20 paces between each of 20 drops of the meter square travelling in an "M" pattern. Record the number of weeds in each drop of the square. Avoid dropping the square in the middle of a patch unless the field is infested such that patches cannot reasonably be avoided.



- b) "Repeat Offender Field" – any field which is identified by the weed inspectors or the Agricultural Fieldman as having an unacceptable level of noxious weeds in three out of the five previous years during the fall drive.
- c) "Reported Field" – any field for which a complaint is received from a ratepayer as having an unacceptable level of weeds
- d) "Unacceptable Field" – any field deemed by the Agricultural Fieldman to contain a noxious weed infestation or a combination of different noxious weeds exceeding five weed plants in twenty square meters with the potential of seed set in the current season.
- e) "Fall Drive" – drive by inspection of every field and road in the agricultural area of Northern Sunrise County to assess the effectiveness of weed control on private and public land in the current year.
- f) "Weed Control Act" – the "Weed Control Act, R.S.A. 2000" and all subsequent amendments and regulations.
- g) For the purpose of this policy, noxious weed shall mean: Canada Thistle, Perennial Sow Thistle, Toadflax and Common Tansy. Any other plants listed as a noxious weed in the Weed Control Act, 2000 Regulations will be dealt with as per the Weed Control Act.

1. Weed inspectors or the Agricultural Fieldman shall perform "M Counts" on all "repeat Offender fields" prior to June 15 each year.

2. Weed inspectors or the Agricultural Fieldman shall perform "M counts" on all "reported Fields" within 3 working days of receipt of the report/complaint.
3. Any fields identified in Section 1 and Section 2 above, that are "unacceptable fields" will receive a "Notice to Remedy Weeds" as defined in the Weed Control Act and in the event of non-compliance, will be subject to the enforcement actions as permitted in the Act.
4. In a crop situation with a major infestation, the Agricultural Fieldman may issue a Notice to Remedy Weeds if control can be achieved through a registered means without destroying crop. If an infestation is discovered too late for in-crop herbicide use, a Notice to Remedy Weeds may be issued requiring the use of a pre-harvest herbicide application.
5. Any county ratepayer who wishes to report a field may do so, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Fieldman. The name of the person(s) making the report shall not be released unless so demanded in a court of law.
6. Weed inspection will be done based on the following priorities:
  - a) "Repeat offender fields"
  - b) "Reported fields"
  - c) Traditional locations of Scentless Chamomile in the agricultural area
  - d) Traditional locations of Scentless Chamomile in the non-agricultural area
  - e) Inspection for noxious weeds in the non-agricultural area.

#### Procedure for Restricted Weeds

1. All Agricultural Service Board staff shall watch for the presence of restricted weeds at all times.
2. For purposes of this policy, Restricted weeds shall mean any weed classified as restricted in the Weed Control Act regulations or in Northern Sunrise County By-law.
3. Restricted weeds shall be dealt with as soon as they are located or reported.
4. All Notice to Remedy Weeds shall be monitored to ensure compliance or enforcement action shall be taken.

Approved Date:

Motion Number:

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Reeve

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Chief Administrative Officer