



Yellowhead County

Policy No.: 6300.05

Topic: Weed Control Policy	Effective Date:
	Approved By: RES ____-04-22-08
Subject Area: Agricultural Services	Date of Next Review: January 2013
	Date(s) Revised:

Policy Statement:

Yellowhead County Agricultural Services shall carry out the requirements of the Weed Control Act of Alberta, RSA 2000 within our jurisdiction.

Purpose:

To control and prevent the spread of noxious and restricted weeds on all lands within Yellowhead County.

Principles:

1. Restricted and Noxious weeds pose significant risk to all land (agricultural, forested, and environmentally sensitive) within Yellowhead County.
2. These invasive weeds will continue to spread if no control is adopted by all effected stakeholders.
3. For the purposes of inspection and enforcement, Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Department does not differentiate weed species within their respective provincially designated restricted or noxious weed categories.
4. Yellowhead County is committed to weed control and will continue to foster partnerships with all stakeholders to eliminate the spread of invasive weeds.
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Council Guidelines:

1. Council understands the importance of weed control and will appoint inspectors under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, R.S.A 2000 to implement this policy within Yellowhead County.
2. Council will establish an independent committee to hear and determine appeals received by the municipality against notices issued by an inspector under the Act.

Managerial Guidelines:

1. Yellowhead County within its operational and fiscal capacity shall conduct inspections of all land as may be necessary to determine the presence of noxious or restricted weeds.



2. Yellowhead County shall, each year, appoint an independent committee to hear and determine appeals received by the municipality against notices issued by an inspector under the Act.
3. The County Council shall annually appoint designated "Inspectors" under the Weed Control Act to carry out the inspections of all land.
4. The designated "Inspector" shall have all the duties, rights and powers conferred by the Weed Control Act R.S.A 2000.
5. Designated inspectors inspect properties utilizing both computer assisted inspection and physical inspection while on site.
6. When there is a residence on a property to be inspected, the inspector shall attempt to have personal contact with the occupants. If contact is not made then an identifier will be left (Business Card or Door Hanger) at the residence notifying the landowner of the inspection.
7. If any level of infestation is found on a landowner's property, the landowner will be notified either by phone, personal contact or an information letter, with the weed inspection report attached, will be sent confirming the problem area.
8. Landowners will be given a determined amount of time to comply with the letter and then a follow up inspection will occur.
9. If a re-inspection reveals non-compliance, landowners will be re-contacted in person or via the phone. This will be followed by an additional letter informing the land owner that continued non-compliance will result in an eventual weed notice.
10. A third and final re-check will determine whether the property will be brought forward for more in depth examination and enforcement the following year.
11. If determined by the inspector that no control work was attempted; the Inspector shall issue a "Notice to Control" or a "Notice to Destroy" dependant on the circumstance which advises the owner/occupant of the time when the work is to be completed and the right of appeal of the notice.
12. In instances where an infestation is found and the owner/occupant cannot be reasonably contacted following an inspection, the Inspector shall issue a "Notice To Control" or a "Notice To Destroy" and mail the same by registered mail to the address of the property owner/occupant listed on the assessment roll of the County and accompany such notices with a letter advising of the obligations of the owner/occupant and the municipality under the Weed Control Act and the right of appeal of the notice.
13. In the event that the owner/occupant fails to comply with a notice issued under the Act or a decision of the Weed Control Appeal Committee the municipality or its authorized agent may forthwith and without further delay enter upon the lands with sufficient resources for purposes of ensuring compliance with a notice or decision.
14. The Inspector shall immediately notify the Municipal Treasurer of any and all costs incurred by the municipality associated with the enforcement of a lawful order or notice.
15. The Municipal Treasurer shall as soon as practical serve a demand for payment of the expenses incurred by the municipality on the owner of the land in the manner prescribed in the Act. An additional 10% Administration fee will be levied against the landowner in addition to the cost of the cleanup contract.



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| <p>16. If a dispute is filed within the time frame specified with the Municipal Treasurer related to the charges the County shall as soon as practical commence as action to collect the amount.</p> <p>17. In the event a dispute is not filed by the landowner the Municipal Treasurer shall apply the amount to the tax roll.</p> |
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Cross Reference to Other Policies and Bylaws:

Policy #63.02 is rescinded with the adoption of this policy.

Mayor, Gerald Soroka

April 22, 2008

Date

Chief Administrative Officer, Jack Ramme

April 22, 2008

Date
