

POLICY NO:	AG 009
POLICY TITLE:	ROADSIDE WEED CONTROL
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
APPROVAL DATE:	AG 02-04-91 (April 1991) ;
REVISION DATE:	22-07-98 (July 1998) ; 78-09-15 (Sep 22, 2015)
REVIEW DATE:	

Legal Reference:

CVR By-Law 2328

Background:

The Agricultural Service Board is responsible for developing and delivering a weed control program in the County under authority of the Alberta Weed Control Act. Many parcels of land are infested with weeds that reduce its agricultural productivity and threaten adjacent lands. Included in this land are many miles of roadside. Weeds along adjoining headland areas are of equal concern. This policy will be used to guide the weed control programs within the County.

Objectives:

1. Minimize the spread of invasive plant species listed under the Alberta Weed Control Act
2. Establish a fair and consistent approach to weed control, enforcement and services.
3. Create a co-operative, long term solution for weed concerns on roadside.
4. Preserve the productivity of agricultural land.

Procedures:

The following procedures will clarify the responsibilities of all parties and provide the framework for programs that will give attention to roadside weed concerns.

1. Equipment:
 - a. The County will develop and use equipment suitable for weed control within the road allowance.
 - b. The County will develop and promote the use of equipment suitable for weed control along headland and fence line areas adjacent to a roadside.
2. Weed Inspectors

A seasonal inspection will be done of all roadside areas for weeds designated under the Alberta Weed Control Act

3. Co-operative Action

A co-operative approach for weed control (between landholder and county) should be used to achieve desired results. The Alberta Weed Act clearly states that weed control activities are to be conducted by the property owner.

Limitations

1. Agricultural herbicides are registered for use on food crops. Industrial herbicides used on roadsides are NOT registered for use on food crops. The County therefore strives to avoid herbicide trespass.
2. Access - The roadside is not designed for ease of operating equipment such as sprayers within the ditch area itself. Effective reach from the road for any spray application is affected by width of right-of-way, wind, and equipment design. Fences, crops, bush, backslopes and water bodies all restrict access to the roadside area and hamper weed control efforts.

Timing - Most weed control depends upon the growth stage of the weeds and other vegetation around (i.e.: nearby crops) as well as weather conditions. These factors are highly variable and when considered along with hundreds of miles of roadside in the county, the exact timing for weed control measure is difficult. Some of the problems in timeliness can be reduced by using long lasting, residual and less selective herbicides in a systematic “blanket spray” operation.