



Municipal District of Clear Hills No.21

Effective Date:	Procedure Number 6304-01
Title: Roadside Vegetation Control	

1. Roadside Vegetation Control

- 1.1. At the end of the season, the Director of Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), Roadside Spray Crew and Director of Public Works will prepare a plan as to areas requiring hydro-axing, mowing, hand brushing and /or brush spraying. Maps will be drawn up showing areas to be controlled for the next year.
- 1.2. Weed infestations take priority over brush control. The Spray Crew shall safely and efficiently handle chemical brush and weed control, as per maps, requests and new weed and brush infestations reported.
- 1.3. Herbicides are to be applied safely using the most recent herbicide label. All requirements of the label will be adhered to.
- 1.4. The spray truck operator shall utilise proper discretion and if unsafe conditions arise, herbicide applications are to be immediately ceased. Examples of unsafe conditions are winds in excess of 16 km/hour and visible drift is occurring.
- 1.5. Confrontations with members of the public shall be avoided. The Roadside Spray Crew shall report all complaints to the Fieldman for his/her investigation.
- 1.6. Herbicides will not be applied:
 - 1.6.1. To any area for which a "No Spray Request" agreement has been entered;
 - 1.6.2. On or adjacent to known popular berry patches and any berry patches as requested;
 - 1.6.3. Adjacent to water bodies, as defined in "The Environmental Protection Enhancement Act".
- 1.7. The M.D. will handgun or backpack spray infested road ditches adjacent to places of residence, dugouts or borrow pits, and shelterbelts. Persons wishing to exempt themselves from spraying shall fill out a No Spray request form.

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- 1.7.1. If a place of residence, dugout or borrow pit, or shelterbelt is greater than 100 m from the right of way, or protected by 50 m or greater of natural brush, boom spraying is allowed.
- 1.8. The DCCS shall be informed of any situation arising which any employee feels compromises his, other staff, or the environments safety.
- 1.9. Beekeepers who express concern over the use of Herbicides near their hives will be treated as follows:
 - 1.9.1. They will be requested to enter onto Municipal District map(s), the area(s) where their beehives are to be placed;
 - 1.9.2. Herbicide applications within 1/2 mile of these beehives will take place prior to the beehives being brought to the area, or if the beehives are in place, prior to 7:30 a.m.;
 - 1.9.3. The beekeeper shall be contacted at least 24 hours in advance of herbicide applications taking place within 1/2 mile of his hives.
- 1.10. Pesticide container rinsing shall be done in accordance with Alberta Environment recommendations (i.e., all containers are to be triple rinsed and disposed of in the container disposal site).
- 1.11. Safety equipment, clothing, eye-wear and breathing apparatus shall be provided for staff by the Municipal District. The applicator shall use the equipment and clothing to ensure his safety.
- 1.12. Pesticide Applicator certificates shall be kept up to date. Medical examinations shall be taken at the beginning and end of the spray season. The Municipal District shall reimburse the cost of these examinations. Examination results are to be kept on file by the M.D.
- 1.13. Records of daily conditions, herbicide usage, areas covered, problems which arise and work accomplished shall be kept. A yearly report shall be prepared jointly by each spray crew.
- 1.14. Trials will be carried out on an ongoing basis to compare alternative brush and weed control methods. Innovative methods shall be researched and compared for effectiveness, cost and their safety to the environment. All trials will be co-ordinated through the Agricultural Fieldman.
- 1.15. Some dugouts which receive water from roadside ditches will be sampled and tested for herbicide residues, to ascertain whether herbicides are moving off application sites.

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1.16. Roadside brush should be sprayed previous to the brush reaching 2 (two) meters in height or within 3 (three) years of construction or backsloping, whichever comes first.

1.17. Any brush over 2 (two) meters in height shall be slated for the most appropriate control measure in the following order; mowing, hand cutting and mechanical brushing.

2. Exemption from Roadside Spraying

2.1. The intent of the No Spray request is to allow concerned Municipal District of Clear Hills No. 21 citizens the opportunity to exempt roadside from the M.D.'s roadside spraying program, while ensuring weed control on roadsides is maintained.

2.2. An advertisement in the M.D. Newsletter shall be placed by the DCCS in the spring of each year informing:

2.2.1. Weed control on roadsides will be achieved by herbicide or cultural means;

2.2.2. All roads are subject to spraying;

2.2.3. Only handgun spraying will take place adjacent to residences, dugouts and shelterbelts;

2.2.4. Persons wishing to exempt roadside ditches are required to fill out a form and agree to carry out an effective weed control plan.

2.2.5. The "No Spray" request must be submitted to the municipality by May 15 for the current spray season.

2.3. The No Spray request (Appendix "A") must be entered into and will state:

2.3.1. The request is for one spray season duration only;

2.3.2. Weed control is the applicant's responsibility;

2.3.3. If weed control is not achieved to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB), the Municipal District will implement weed control as it seems fit and no exemption will be allowed in the subsequent year.

2.3.4. Municipal District of Clear Hills No. 21 will be held harmless.

2.4. Upon the completed form being received by the office, signs will be mailed and those persons will be responsible for posting them where roadside spraying is not wanted.

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3. Roadside Seeding Objectives

3.1. The Municipal District shall seed ditches along new roads, reconstructed roads, and drainage ditches within a minimum common #1 seed that is suitable to soil type, in order that grass cover establishment will prevent erosion, and weed growth.

3.2. Specification of Seed.

3.2.1. All species grass/grain varieties shall meet the requirements of the Canada Seed Act for a minimum of Common No. 1 to source from the Peace Country when feasible. The seed shall be tested by a recognized seed house with an attached weed seed analysis certificate, which is free of Noxious Weed as indicated by the Weed Control Act of Alberta or local bylaw. The ASB, prior to purchase of seed must approve the analysis.

3.2.2. In addition to the above specifications, the seed shall have zero (zero) tolerance to Sweet Clover.

3.2.3. The recommended basic mixture for the Municipal District of Clear Hills No. 21 is as follows:

- (60%) 60lbs Fall Rye
- (16%) 16lbs Creeping Red Fescue
- (12%) 12lbs Smooth Brome
- (05%) 5lbs Timothy
- (07%) 7lbs White Clover
- (100%) 100lbs Total

3.3. Procedure.

3.3.1. When construction is completed, the Director of Public Works shall notify the DCCS in order that seeding can be conducted within the earliest possible period.

3.3.2. If contract has been issued for construction of the project including seeding of the said project, all specifications of seed as indicated in Policy No. 63702 Clause 1,2,3 shall be adhered to. Documentation of these specifications shall be provided to and approved prior to commencement of seeding by the Municipal District of Clear Hills No. 21 Agricultural Fieldman or representative.

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4. Roadside Cultivating

- 4.1. Farmers may cultivate up to the shoulder of Municipal roads adjacent to their lands in order to take advantage of the additional farm land and for weed control. Farmers shall not cause water to be diverted or eroded within a road allowance.
- 4.2. The landowner must contact the municipal office before proceeding.
- 4.3. The Municipal District shall not be liable for any action taken in such a manner and the landowner will assume full responsibility for such action taken.

5. End of Procedure

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