

**COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE NO. 1
POLICY MANUAL**

Legal References: <u>Weed Control Act</u>	Policy Department: Agriculture
Cross References:	Policy Number: D12
Adoption Date: Revision Date: November 26, 2007 (Resolution #11-1833-07)	Policy Title: Weed control Policy.

POLICY PURPOSE:

To ensure that all restricted weeds and all noxious weeds within the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 are destroyed and controlled, respectively, in accordance with the Weed Control Act weed regulation.

POLICY STATEMENT & GUIDELINES:

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. Ratepayers are encouraged to study this policy and ensure they are aware of their responsibilities.

A. OBJECTIVE:

Over the years, the County of Grande Prairie No. 1, Agricultural Service Board has been working closely with the landowners to combat the weed problem of the area. The objective is to provide technical support and encourage landowners to control the infestation and spread of these weeds. The weeds will be controlled as outlined in the Provincial Weed Control Act. There are several control methods: chemical, mechanical, and biological, however, the Agricultural Service Board encourages the use of Integrated Pest Management.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES:

Agricultural Department will:

1. Conduct control operations on municipal lands including roadside right of ways. However, if the landowner requests

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- spray exemption on the roadside right of way adjacent to his/her land, it is the landowner's responsibility to control the weeds on the roadside right of way.
2. Conduct a weed inspection and enforcement program on private land, crown land, transportation corridors, and industrial sites.
 3. Work with the Provincial Government to conduct awareness sessions in weed identification and control. This will be in form of public awareness sessions, newsletters, brochures, and ads in newspaper and/or radio.

Landowners will:

1. Destroy and control infestations of restricted and noxious weeds respectively, by active measures such as chemical, mechanical, or use of integrated pest management. Details of these methods will be provided by contacting the Agricultural Fieldman's office.
2. Prevent the spread of weed seeds by using proper sanitation and recommended farming cultural practices.

Others:

Industries, truckers, seed cleaning plants and others are expected to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of weed seeds in contaminated hay, equipment, gravel, seed grain or other materials. Loads should be properly secured.

Our citizens are reminded that their co-operation is needed if the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 is to meet its weed control objectives. Achieving this objective will contribute to greater crop yields and decreased weed control expenses for farmers.

Weed Inspectors:

The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 will employ knowledgeable and adequate number of weed inspectors. Each inspector will be properly trained as an authorized assistant herbicide applicator and will apply herbicide under the supervision and license of the Agricultural Fieldman.

Inspectors will do routine inspections and respond to farmers' concerns. When weeds are identified, inspectors will inform the landowner, first, by visiting the landowner. If the inspector is unable to meet the landowner, he/she will leave a courtesy card on the door to explain his/her visit and purpose of the visit. If the landowner does not respond or has not taken any control measures, the inspector will call three times, if this attempt fails, a weed report shall be issued. The landowner will be given one week to control the weeds.

The Agricultural Service Board expects most landowners to live up to their responsibility of weed control. When this is not the case, the weed inspector will conduct a follow up visit and shall issue a formal "Notice of Remedy" under the Provincial Weed Control Act. The landowner shall be given one week to comply. If control is not completed at the expiration of the notice, the County will employ a Contractor to conduct the weed control work. Charges of non-compliance may also be considered. The land owner/occupant will be responsible for the cost of weed control failure to pay will result in the sum owing collected as taxes.

When noxious and/or restricted weeds are found later on in the season, when spraying is no longer a viable option, a weed notice will be issued for the following year.

Landowners may appeal a notice to remedy. However appeals must be filed prior to expiration of the notice and in accordance with the instruction on the notice.

Spraying rental equipment is available to landowners. This rental equipment is available on a priority basis.

EXHIBIT(S):

1. See the Weed Control Act
2. Rental equipment policy