

CATEGORY: AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (Vegetation Management)

TITLE: *Weed Inspection Protocols*

DATE APPROVED: 2012/11/20, 2012/12/12

DATE REVIEWED:

DATE REVISED:

PURPOSE: To establish standards of practice when performing weed inspections and acting upon the results of said inspections.

STATEMENT:

The following procedures have been adopted to ensure constant standards for each inspection and fair treatment of all landowners contacted. Inspections may be carried out on a complaint-driven basis and/or at the discretion of the County.

Procedures:

1. Information from complainant is taken anonymously. The complainant will be advised that staff will act upon the report as is deemed appropriate. No further information in the matter will be disclosed to the complainant.
2. When deemed appropriate, an inspection of the area in question is carried out.
 - a) Vehicles will be driven only on right-of-ways and lease roads. The remainder of the area will be inspected on foot.
 - b) The surrounding area (defined at the discretion of the inspector) may also be inspected to determine the spread of the weed.
 - c) All findings will be recorded on a *Weed Inspection Form* (Appendix X) to ensure all details are noted.
3. If deemed appropriate, the landowner/occupant will be contacted about the matter. No information regarding the complainant will be disclosed to the landowner/occupant. Options for solving the issue will be case-dependant and an accepted agricultural practice.
4. A follow-up inspection shall be performed in order to determine landowner/occupant compliance, control effectiveness, off-target damage, etc. The date of this follow-up inspection will be at the inspector's discretion. A next-season inspection may also be performed to assess long-term control and/or if new measures are necessary.
5. If a state of non-compliance is determined during the follow-up inspection, the following steps may be taken:
 - a) The landowner/occupant is contacted to confirm no action has been taken.

- b) An *Inspector's Notice* (*Weed Control Act [WCA], Sec. 13*) is issued and served in accordance with Sections 14 and 24 of the *WCA*. The procedure for this is summarized as follows:
- i. An inspector's notice:
 1. Must outline the method of control.
 2. Must set a deadline for compliance.
 3. May contain directions referring to land use for the current and next season.
 4. Must not require destruction of crops unless it is deemed necessary to control or destroy noxious or prohibited noxious weeds.
 5. Must not require the destruction of more than 20 acres unless consented by the local authority (see Sec. 14(5) of the *WCA* for more details).
 - ii. The notice must be served on a person by
 1. Personal delivery to the person.
 2. Leaving it with a person who appears to be over 18 at the place of residence or place of business of the person.
 3. Or if 1 or 2 is impractical by posting the notice on the land to which the notice relates or at the private residence of the person to be served. A copy must also be sent by regular mail (deemed received after 7 days).