

<p>COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10</p> <p>Municipal Policy & Procedures Manual</p>	<p>FUNCTION:</p> <p>6000 Planning and Development Services</p>
	<p>SECTION:</p> <p>6200 Agricultural Service Board</p>

WEED NOTICES POLICY #6251

POLICY STATEMENT

The Council of the County of Wetaskiwin shall enforce the *Weed Control Act* within the County of Wetaskiwin for the betterment of all producers and residents.

PROCEDURES

Weed Inspectors are hired and trained by the County of Wetaskiwin and patrol all land areas within the County boundaries for the purposes of identifying and eliminating noxious and restricted weeds. Authorities for issuing weed notices and weed reports are granted by virtue of the *Weed Control Act*.

Upon identification of a noxious or restricted or restricted weed on private or public land within the County of Wetaskiwin, the following procedures shall be follows:

1. The Weed Inspector will make every attempt to verbally notify the producer of the weed problem.
2. A first report is issued if (a) if the Weed Inspector is unable to meet and provide verbal notice or (b) if, after giving a verbal notice; the producer fails to take any action.
3. A second report is issued if the producer continues to fail to take action. Copies of all second reports shall be forwarded to the Councilor responsible for the Division in which the weeds were identified.
4. A Weed Notice is issued if (a) after the second report the producer fails to take any action or (b) if the action taken does not satisfy the Weed Inspector.

Copies of all weed notices shall be provided to the respective Councilor for that Division.

5. If the producer does not satisfy the conditions of the Weed Notice, two avenues are available:
 - (a) proceed with legal court action or
 - (b) mitigate the weed control problem utilizing contract or County resources and invoice the producer for the work performed.
6. Should action as described in 5(b) be taken, and the landowner fails to remit payment for the work performed, the Administrator shall review the invoice and is authorized under the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 553 and the *Weed Act* to apply any unpaid amount against the Landowner's property taxes.
7. In the event of litigation a second Weed Notice may be issued if the Courts find the producer to be at fault and the producer continues to fail to take action. Copies of all second weed notices shall be provided to the respective Councilor for that Division.
8. In the event timelines for notice may compromise the ability of the County to effectively control noxious weeds, the Director, Agricultural Services shall verbally provide notice to the appropriate Councilor of any and all action by virtue of the second weed report or weed notice.

These steps are used primarily for "first time offenders". For those producers who were previously issued notices or have outstanding notices, the Weed Inspectors proceed immediately to step #4 and issue a Weed Notice. If the problem is deemed severe enough, a Weed Notice may be issued the current year for control work for the following year.