



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PEACE NO. 135

PREPARED BY: Nasar Iqbal	ADOPTED BY:	NUMBER: ASB – 2
REVISED BY: Nasar Iqbal	COUNCIL	SUPERSEDES:
TITLE: Vegetation Management Policy		April 28, 2014 Revised: Feb.27, 2020

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY:

The spread of prohibited noxious and noxious weeds are a threat to the productivity of cropped lands and pastures as well as having negative impact on riparian areas. The Agricultural Service Board is responsible for developing and delivering weed control programs in the Municipal District of Peace No. 135 as required under the *Weed Control Act*. The objectives of the program are:

- To destroy all instances of prohibited noxious weeds and prevent the spread of noxious weeds.
- To educate all landowners and occupants of land within the MD of which weeds are of major concern.

POLICY STATEMENT:

1. Noxious and Prohibited Noxious Weeds Control - Programming

- a. Establish a continuing awareness campaign through such things as farm calls, tours, newsletters, local media resources, Facebook and the MD website.
- b. Hire and train sufficient support staff to complement the weed control program within budget guidelines.
- c. ASB staff will conduct weed inspections and carry out enforcement as required in accordance with the *Weed Control Act*.
- d. The Manager of Ag Services shall coordinate all vegetation management programs in such a manner so as each component complements the other program components.
- e. The vegetation management program shall be reviewed and amended as required on an annual basis.

2. Noxious Weeds Control - Enforcement

- a. Inspections are conducted in a timely manner to identify new problems that have developed over the growing season.
- b. Owners of subdivided land, 20 acres or less in size, and urban lots within the Hamlet of Brownvale, containing uncontrolled weeds shall be sent a letter to control noxious weeds.
- c. Where a problem exists, a weed inspection report is prepared and the occupant, which is defined in the *Weed Control Act* as a person occupying or exercising control or having the right to occupy or exercise control over land, is verbally contacted to discuss options to remedy the weed problem.



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April 28, 2014 Revised: Feb.27, 2020		

- d. All contact with the occupant must be recorded in the weed inspection report and if no contact can be established during the first attempt, the weed inspector needs to attempt to contact the occupant a second time.
- e. If after all reasonable efforts to contact the occupant have been unsuccessful, a Weed Inspector's Notice regarding the weed problem will be sent to the occupant with a copy and all relevant documents being forwarded to the landowner.
- f. Weed inspection reports are to include a written report, a picture of the site including time and date have taken, the legal land location and the identified weed problem.
- g. In the Weed Inspector's Notice, noxious weeds to be controlled will be clearly stated. The occupant will have a maximum of 10 days to act on the Weed Inspector's Notice. In case of non-compliance, enforcement will follow.
- h. Farm calls will be made during the winter months to assist occupants in developing a viable weed control program.
- i. Quarters with outstanding weed issues will be re-inspected prior to June 15th of the following year by the Manager of Agricultural Services. The owner/occupant will be informed of the inspection time and requested to attend.
- j. In a failure of voluntary action by the landowner/occupant, the fieldman will proceed with enforcement procedures pursuant to the *Weed Control Act*. Council and the Agricultural Service Board will be notified by a report of all weed notices.
- k. The Manager of Agricultural Services will take action and arrange for enforcement work to proceed. The Municipal Secretary will invoice the owner for the cost of control work. If not paid within 30 days, the Municipal Secretary shall cause the amount owing to be placed on the tax roll.
- l. Enforcement work shall be carried out as directed in the Notice and in accordance with Section 18 of the *Weed Control Act*.

3. Prohibited Noxious Weeds Control – Enforcement

- a. Inspections are conducted in a timely manner to identify new problems that have developed over the growing season.
- b. Where a Prohibited Noxious Weed Problem has been identified, the Manager of Agricultural Services will issue a "Weed Inspector's Notice".
- c. Pending failure of voluntary action by the landowner/occupant, the Manager of Agricultural Services will proceed with enforcement procedures pursuant to the *Weed Control Act*. The Agricultural Service Board and Council will be notified of all weed notices.



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- d. The Manager of Agricultural Services will take action and arrange for enforcement work to proceed. The Municipal Secretary will invoice the owner for the cost of control work. If not paid within 30 days, the Municipal Secretary shall cause the amount owing to be placed on the tax roll.
- e. Enforcement work shall be carried out as directed in the Notice and in accordance with Section 18 of the *Weed Control Act*.

4. Noxious & Prohibited Weed Control - Roadside Spraying

- a. All municipal roads shall be sprayed as part of a two-year rotation using an appropriate broadleaf herbicide.
- b. Problem areas as designated by the Manager of Agricultural Services shall be sprayed annually or as required.
- c. Brush spraying will take place where the brush is less than two (2) meters in height. Brush higher than this shall be either mulched, cut and piled, or moved depending on the size and density of the brush.
- d. Only selective herbicides registered for use on right-of-ways shall be used in the vegetation management program.
- e. Spraying shall be followed up the following year by mowing as required to remove dead brush residue.
- f. No spraying shall take place adjacent to hedges, shelterbelts, yard sites, dugouts or environmentally sensitive areas. Ratepayers shall be notified by newspaper prior to the start of the spraying program each year.
- g. Ratepayers may request that no spraying be conducted adjacent to their property by signing a written waiver in person at the Municipal office. Ratepayers shall assume the responsibility for control measures on adjoining roadsides where they have requested no spraying and in case of non-control of weeds, the Agricultural Service Board staff will employ control measures which include the spraying of herbicides.

5. Sale of Pesticides

The ASB will not offer for sale any pesticides to ratepayers due to environmental regulations.