

	Council Policy		
	Classification Agriculture		Policy No. AG 3.2
	Policy Title Vegetation Control		
	Approved By: Council	Effective Date: February 8, 2017	Revisions:

References:

Purpose

To establish criteria for the control of legislatively identified priority alien invasive species, hazardous plant growth and brush in the County.

Statement

The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will use an integrated approach in an endeavor to control legislatively identified priority alien invasive species (“target weeds”) on roadsides and fields throughout the municipality, hazardous plant growth and vision obscuring brush on County roadsides. This approach includes, but is not limited to, mechanical, chemical, biological and cultural control of weeds, plants and brush where appropriate to meet our legislative obligations under the Weed Control Act and Agricultural Service Board Policy, to ensure clear sight lines to signs and intersections, to facilitate snow removal and road drainage, and to minimize wildlife damages. Where target weeds have been identified on private land in the County, ratepayers will be advised, and a control plan devised.

General Guidelines

1. All safety and traffic rules, regulations and recommendations will be adhered to while conducting control of brush, target weeds and hazardous plant growth.

Weed Control:

2. All roadsides and fields in the County will be visually inspected on an annual basis where practicable for the presence of target weeds. Those species considered target weeds will be determined by the Provincial Weed Act and the County Agricultural Service Board. Identified locations of all target weeds will be recorded and kept for future reference.

3. For the purposes of roadside weed control, the County is divided into three regions. Intensive attention will be paid to a minimum of one region per year on a rotational basis. Selective chemical weed control will occur on roadsides in one region per year as a minimum.
4. All contacts regarding the presence of target weeds within the County will be investigated, the species identified, and control plans devised, both on County and private land.
5. Ratepayers may request that the roadside immediately adjacent their property not have chemical control of target weeds applied to it, thus the ratepayer will be assuming responsibility for control of these weeds. This request must be completed annually, in writing, on the appropriate roadside vegetation control agreement. Prohibited noxious weeds beyond the flowering stage may be controlled by the County of Stettler at its discretion including chemical application.
6. Nearby municipalities will be informed of the presence of target weeds on land adjacent to the County, and encouraged to appropriately control them.
7. Chemical control of target weeds and brush will not be conducted within 30 meters of a rural residence or water body.
8. Chemical control of target weeds will only be conducted in appropriate environmental conditions so that the potential for drift onto sensitive species will be minimized.
9. Mowing roadsides is a cultural means of controlling target weeds. We will endeavor to mow ditches immediately adjacent to all County roads at least once per season in order to control roadside weeds, starting as early as practicable in the year. Mowing will also control vegetation height for visibility purposes, and to discourage wildlife from grazing near the roads, thus improving road safety.
10. Landowners or long term renters (more than three years remaining on their rental agreement) may request the Agricultural Service Board to chemically or mechanically control small areas (less than one acre in size) of target weeds on their private land. A signed, written agreement must be in place before weed control will take place, and the landowner or long term renter will be billed for the cost of the control.

Brush Control:

11. Brush causing problems with general Maintenance within the road allowance, will be controlled. Where brush has grown to a point where mowing is not practicable, other mechanical means will be employed, and regrowth will be adequately controlled in subsequent years.
12. Brush will be controlled to protect the integrity of roads. Chemical control will be conducted as directed to Integrated Vegetation Management Association (IVMA)

Standards on brush under 2.5 meters in height. Selective chemical control or mechanical control will be utilized on brush identified for removal that is more than 2.5 meters in height.

13. Brush requiring control will be identified as early in the season as practicable and controlled in a timely manner.
14. Landowners or long term renters may request assistance from the Agricultural Services Board for chemical control of brush on fence lines. Unless otherwise agreed to, the landowner or long-term renter will be responsible for all costs of this control, and a written, signed agreement must be in place prior to control.
15. For the purposes of this policy the Vegetation Control Areas are as follows:
 - a. Area 1: Townships 33, 34, 35 and 36
 - b. Area 2: Townships 37, 38 and 39
 - c. Area 3: Township 40, 41 and 42

Related Documents

Form 3002: No-Spray Agreement

Policy Authorization

Effective Date	Type of Review	Authorization	Resolution Number
February 8, 2017	Adopted	Council	39.02.08.17
February 28, 2018	Yearly Review	ASB	27.02.28.18