

MACKENZIE COUNTY

Title	AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD WEED CONTROL	Policy No:	ASB021
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Purpose

To enforce the Alberta Weed Control Act and therefore prevent and control the establishment and/or spread of **Noxious** and **Prohibited Noxious** weeds.

Policy Statement and Guidelines

1. Objective:

To prevent and control the establishment and/or spread of **Noxious** and **Prohibited Noxious** weeds through inspections, awareness, education and responsible communication with landowners, occupants, industry stakeholders and members of the general public.

2. Definitions:

- 2.1. **Eradicate** means: destroy all parts of the plant, and render reproductive parts of the plant non-viable.
- 2.2. **Control** means: inhibit the growth or spread of the plant.
- 2.3. **Noxious Weeds and Prohibited Noxious Weeds** are as defined, all include all those weeds identified, under the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta (RSA 2008/W-5.1) and the *Weed Control Regulations* (19/2010), as amended from time to time. As well, **Noxious Weeds** and **Prohibited Noxious** Weeds shall include invasive species which have been elevated in status by municipal bylaw.

3. Procedures:

- 3.1. The Agricultural Service Board, at its discretion, appoints a sufficient number of inspectors to carry out the *Weed Control Act* and supply each inspector with identification in the form prescribed by the *Weed Control Regulations*.
- 3.2. Weed inspectors will be provided with Mackenzie County's Inspectors Next Step Per Established Communication Table (I.N.S.P.E.C.T.) as a guideline to decipher extent and severity of infestation, act as a median for all weed cases and provide a timeline for communication.
- 3.3. The Weed Inspection Program will be conducted during the months of May to September; and will be carried out by the Agricultural Fieldman, and Weed Inspectors.
- 3.4. The Agricultural Fieldman will be responsible for enforcement of the Alberta

Weed Control Act.

- 3.5. When a weed problem is found, every effort will be made to cooperate with the land owner to deal with the problem in an amicable manner. After verbal and written communication is made, In accordance with Procedure 3.2, and no satisfactory results have been deemed then a Weed Notice will be issued in person to the land owner, or by registered mail. Weed Notices are to be issued at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman; as per **Appendix “A” Notice to Remedy Weed Problem.**
- 3.6. Weed Notices and all actions carried out before; after in accordance with the issuance thereof, must be in compliance with the current *Weed Control Act*, or related statutes of the Province of Alberta.
- 3.7. If remedial measures of the Weed Notice have not been complied with, the work may be carried out by the municipality or a private contractor (as hired by the municipality) and all associated fees are to be applied to the landowner and/or occupant.
- 3.8. If the landowner and/or occupant fail to pay the amount owing, the charges will be sent to a collections agency or applied to the tax roll against the land in question by motion of the County Council.
- 3.9. All recipients of Weed Notices shall have the opportunity to appeal Weed Notices as per conditions set forth by the Agricultural Appeal Board.
- 3.10. If the Notice is deemed as compliant, the landowner will be notified via phone call, and written letter from the Agricultural Fieldman.

4. Appeal Follow Up Procedures:

- 4.1. All Recipients of Weed Notices shall have the opportunity to appeal Weed Notices as per conditions set forth by the Alberta Weed Control Act and the Agricultural Appeal Board.
- 4.2. The Agricultural Appeal Board shall hear and determine the appeal within five (5) days of receipt of notice of appeal by the Chief Administrative Officer.
- 4.3. The Agricultural Appeal Board may confirm, rescind or vary the notice.
- 4.4. The Chief Administrative Officer shall send a copy of the decision along with the written reason; if any to the appellant by registered or certified mail.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	2017-04-11	17-04-275
Amended	2020-01-14	20-01-006
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