

Department: Agricultural Services	Section: VM – Vegetation Management
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VM-04 High-Risk Invasive Weed Species Prevention and Control

Policy statement

Leduc County will act in accordance with its legislated responsibilities under the *Alberta Weed Control Act* and provide a program to assist Leduc County property owners in control of small areas of one acre or less of high-risk invasive weeds on private property.

Definitions

- *Control* means to inhibit the growth or spread or destroy.
- *Integrated vegetation management* means a systematic decision-making process that uses multiple methods of control to prevent unwanted plant species from becoming a problem.
- *Noxious weed* means a plant designated in accordance with the *Alberta Weed Control Act* and *Weed Control Regulation* as a noxious weed and includes its seeds. A plant designated as a noxious weed may be present within Alberta but not in abundant numbers and has the potential to cause significant yield losses to agricultural crops.
- *Prohibited noxious weed* means a plant designated in accordance with the *Alberta Weed Control Act* and *Weed Control Regulation* as a prohibited noxious weed and includes its seeds. A plant designated as a prohibited noxious weed is generally not found in Alberta, or is found in small numbers but has a high potential threat of invasion or is potentially harmful to livestock or people.
- *High-risk invasive weed* means a weed designated as Noxious or Prohibited Noxious and has less than five active cases within Leduc County where the weed is viable and not currently controlled.
- *Property owner* is the person responsible for a property who
 - is the legal owner of it,
 - has lawful possession of it, or
 - has the right to exercise control over it.

Policy standards

1. Undertake an integrated vegetation management approach to ensure safe and effective control of the non-established weed identified to be at high risk of becoming invasive on private property with written permission by the land owner.
2. Where chemical control is required, carry out responsible herbicide application according to product label and by exclusively using only those herbicides registered through the Pest Management Regulatory Agency – Health Canada under the *Canada Pest Control Products Act*.
3. Herbicide applications will be performed only by pesticide applicators who have been trained in accordance with the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and *Regulation*.

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Policy authority

1. Legislative implications:
 - *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*
 - *Alberta Weed Control Act and Weed Control Regulation*
 - Alberta Environment Pesticide Service Registration – Industrial Approval
 - Pest Management Regulatory Agency – Health Canada under the *Canada Pest Control Products Act Standards*
 - *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

Policy responsibilities1. Council responsibilities

Council will:

- Approve the High-Risk Invasive Weed Species Prevention and Control policy.
- Approve budget annually.

2. Administration responsibilities

Administration will:

- Ensure compliance with all current legislated requirements and municipal policies.
- Implement and maintain procedures to ensure that all vegetation management operations will be undertaken in accordance with an Integrated Vegetation Management program and established safe work practices.
- Provide training to employees to apply herbicides as specified under the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulation*.
- Educate property owners on noxious and prohibited noxious weeds and identify areas that qualify for assistance in control of small areas of one acre or less of non-established weeds that are a high risk of becoming invasive on private property.

Monitoring and updating

1. This policy will be posted on Leduc County's website.
2. This policy will be review at least once every four (4) years.

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