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**TITLE: WEED CONTROL POLICY**

**Approved by Council:**

**Date: March 25, 1997**

**Revised by Council:**

**Date: June 25, 2019**

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**Summary**

The Municipal District of Pincher Creek is responsible for the effective management, on municipal lands, of designated prohibited noxious and noxious weed species under the *Alberta Weed Control Act; Weed Control Regulation*, and other weeds elevated to such status by Municipal District bylaws, and as such, carry out an annual integrated weed management program (including, but not limited to, appropriate herbicide treatments for these weeds) on municipal roadside right-of-ways (ROW), gravel pits, municipal reserves and environmental reserves.

With that in mind, the Agricultural and Environmental Services Department wants to be part of the decision of where the municipality distributes its gravel from, in order to control the spread of weeds from gravel pits.

Annual inspection of all municipal and participating private gravel pits (aggregate sources) may ensure all gravel, pit run, and aggregate products used within the municipal boundaries come from a municipally inspected gravel pit to assist in preventing the spread of invasive plants; (*Weed Control Act* Part 1: 4(1) and 5(1)).

**Background**

The Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 has approximately 900 kms of gravel roads to maintain. Most roads are re-gravelled every three years (MD Draft Policy Road Maintenance) which makes taking this step important in the areas of not only weed control, but in budgeting and yearly costs as well.

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### **Requirements**

There are four basic requirements to carrying out an effective policy.

- Yearly Inspections – depending on the weed species, there could be as many as four or five different inspections/control per year.
- Program of Integrated Weed Management, with chemical control being the most used component as noxious weed species often flourish in gravel pits, which are highly disturbed areas.
- Communication between all departments of the municipality so that a known weed infestation is not spread from a gravel pit with a viable alternative.
- Communication to anyone in the municipality that may be using gravel from a pit within our borders.

### **Resources**

The Agricultural Fieldman will allocate the appropriate resources to implement this policy. Annually the Fieldman will,

- Designate a crew to inspect each gravel pit.
- Implement an Integrated Control Strategy for each pit, providing all the tools to each crew necessary to carrying out effective control.
- Maintain a list of all Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds (as represented in the Weed Act and as locally elevated species) present in the pit.
- Do a minimum of one annual inspection of all gravel pits in the municipality seeking 'Weed Free' status.
- Communicate all information to Public Works, Municipal Administration and whoever else makes an inquiry as to the status of their purchased gravel in the MD of Pincher Creek.

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**Purpose:**

The Agricultural and Environmental Services Department is responsible for developing and delivering an effective weed control program in the Municipal District (MD) of Pincher Creek. This will be accomplished by following the guidelines and recommendations of the *Alberta Weed Control Act*, the *Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act*, and the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

The Department is responsible for weed control on all municipally owned or controlled lands such as developed and undeveloped Right of Ways, owned or leased Gravel Pits, MD owned or leased land and MD Reserve Lands (Environmental, Conservation, Community Services, Municipal, School and Municipal and School), as designated by Municipal Council.

The Department staff will conduct a weed inspection and enforcement program on private land, Crown land, transportation corridors, and industrial sites. In all cases, the landowner is responsible for weed control, with any control measures taken by Department staff on these lands being done at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman and/or the Director of Operations, as well as according to Policy C-AES-601B, on a cost recovery basis, or charged at MD rates established by council.

**Objectives:**

The Weed Control Program's Objectives are to:

- Protect the agricultural productivity of land.
- Prevent the introduction and spread of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds as outlined in the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.
- Eradicate Prohibited Noxious weeds as outlined in the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.

The Agricultural Fieldman (supervisor), Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Weed Inspectors, and Roadside Spray Crews will work together to carry out the following:

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**Legislated Responsibilities:**

- Eradicate, or cause to be eradicated, any Prohibited Noxious weeds as outlined under the *Alberta Weed Control Act* or local Municipal Bylaw. Council may designate some or all of these species as Eradicable Weeds from year to year at their discretion.
- Control, or cause to be controlled, any Noxious weeds as outlined under the *Alberta Weed Control Act* or local Municipal Bylaw. Council may designate certain Noxious and/or other weed species as priority concerns or Eradicable Weeds from year to year at their discretion.
- Properly document and map all weed infestations and activities. Pesticide applicator files must be kept for ALL applications.

**Other Responsibilities:**

- For the control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds on small acreage areas, premixed herbicides are available on a cost recovery basis at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.
- Promote education and awareness of proper chemical, mechanical, biological, cultural and integrated weed management techniques.
- Demonstrate weed identification techniques.
- Work in cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions to promote and encourage weed control outside our municipal boundaries (for example; Crowsnest Pass).
- Work in cooperation with industry to develop an effective weed control strategy both within and beyond our municipal boundaries.
- Work in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture & Forestry and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada research scientists to provide local plots for weed and herbicide demonstrations, as well as technology transfer.
- Provide recommendations for grass seed mixes to reclaim bare ground or disturbed areas, insisting upon and promoting a good seed mix and a Certificate of Seed Analysis.

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- Conduct regular inspections of the local Seed Cleaning Plant. When requested by the Pincher Creek Seed Cleaning Plant Board, one member of the Agricultural Service Board may sit as an observer.

**Pesticide Container Collection:**

A temporary site for empty pesticide container is maintained at the Pincher Creek Airport. The site is regularly inspected and certified as safe by the Pesticide Management Branch of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development from Lethbridge. The storage trailer at the site is periodically emptied at the Crowsnest Pincher Creek Landfill disposal site for pesticide containers where they are shredded and sent for recycling.

**Legal Requirements:**

Involves acquiring permits for chemical application, handling, & storage of materials, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

The Agricultural Fieldman is a member of the Professional Vegetation Manager's Association (PVMA), an industry driven group of both private and public organizations involved in industrial vegetation control. Their publication Industry Standards and Good Practices is this department's guide for fulfilling legal requirements associated with vegetation control. A copy is available for viewing at the Agricultural Fieldman's office.

**Related Legislation:**

*Federal Pest Control Products Act*

*Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act*

*Alberta Weed Control Act*

*Alberta Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act*

**M.D. OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9**

**CORPORATE POLICY**

**C-AES-004**

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**Related Policy:**

C-AES-002 – Landowners Assuming Responsibility for Weed Control on Municipal Right-of-Ways (ROW) Adjacent to Their Property

C-AES-004B – Eradicable Weed Policy

C-AES-003 – Weed Free Gravel Policy