

<p>MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL</p> <p>WEED CONTROL</p>	<p>Function: Policy No. Effective Date: Supercedes: Amends:</p>	<p>Agriculture Services ASB.06 November 18, 2020 December 2010</p>
--	--	---

Policy Statement

The Agriculture Service Board (ASB) is responsible for developing and delivering a weed control program within the Municipal District of Spirit River no. 133. This policy will be used to guide that program, make responsibilities of all parties clear, and set out a timetable for the achievement of the objectives. Rate payers are encouraged to study this policy along with the *Weed Control Act*, Regulations and Invasive Species and ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities.

Responsibilities:

The Agriculture Services Department will:

1. Conduct vegetation control operations as outlined in Policy ASB 18 Chemical Vegetation Control.
2. Conduct a weed inspection and enforcement program on private land, crown land, transportation corridors, and industrial sites.
3. Promote awareness and identification of regulated weeds and invasive plant species and their control methods through use of awareness sessions, newsletters, brochures, and ad in person, in the local newspaper and on the Municipal District's social media platforms.

Landowners will:

1. Control and destroy infestations of Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds respectively, by active measures such as herbicide application, mechanical methods, or use of integrated pest management. Information on these methods can be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Fieldman's office.

Others:

1. Industries, truckers, seed cleaning plants, and others are expected to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of Noxious and Prohibited Noxious, and Invasive Plant Species weed seeds in contaminated hay, equipment, gravel, seed grain, and other materials.

Procedure:

1. Inspectors will perform routine inspections and respond to ratepayers' concerns.
2. If Noxious, Prohibited Noxious, or Invasive Plant Species are found, the Agricultural Fieldman may contact the landowner or occupant.

- 2.1. If Noxious Weeds are found during the growing season when control efforts would be effective, the Agricultural Fieldman may contact the landowner in person, or by telephone to discuss the findings of the inspection.
 - 2.1.1. If the fieldman is unable to contact the landowner or occupant by either of these methods, he/she will draft a letter to the last known address for the landowner or known occupant.
- 2.2. If Noxious Weeds or Invasive Plant Species are found and evidence of control methods are present, the Agricultural Fieldman may contact the landowner at the end of the growing season by letter to inform them of the findings and that the land will be reinspected the following year.
- 2.3. If Noxious Weeds or Invasive Plant Species are found later in the season when control methods are no longer a viable option, or even during the season when conditions would make control option non-viable, the Agricultural Fieldman may contact the landowners at the end of the season by letter notifying them of the findings, offering control suggestions and informing them that follow-up inspections will be performed during the following growing seasons.
3. The Agricultural Fieldman may issue and enforce a Weed Notice under the *Weed Control Act* or *Invasive Species Bylaw* if control measures for Noxious Weeds or Invasive Species are not taken by the landowner or occupant.
4. If Prohibited Noxious Weeds are found by an inspector, the Agricultural Fieldman will confirm that it is a Prohibited Noxious Weeds and then issue a Weed Notice in the methods outlined in the *Weed Control Act*.
 - 4.1. If Prohibited Noxious Weeds are found late in the season or after optimal timing for control, the Agricultural Fieldman will issue and enforce a Weed Notice for actions to be undertaken the following growing season.
5. A Weed Control Management Plan may be requested by the Agricultural Fieldman for Noxious weeds, and Invasive Plant Species prior to a weed notice being issued and/or if control efforts will be required longer than the duration of the action listed on a Weed Notice.
6. The Agriculture Service Board and Council will be notified of all Weed Notices and requests for Weed Control Management Plans.
7. Landowners and/or occupants may appeal a Weed Notice. However appeals must be filed prior to the expiration date on the notice or in accordance with *the Weed Control Act* or *Invasive Species Bylaw*, whichever is less, and must be filed in the method outlined in the *Weed Control Act* or *Invasive Species Bylaw*.