

Policy statement

Leduc County will act in accordance with its legislated responsibilities under the Province of 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. This program is eligible if there are less than five active cases within Leduc County where the weed is viable and not currently controlled.

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 Province of Alberta *Weed Control Act* and *Weed Control Regulation* as a noxious weed and includes its seeds.

Prohibited noxious weed means a plant designated in accordance with the Province of Alberta *Weed Control Act* and *Weed Control Regulation* as a prohibited noxious weed and includes its seeds.

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 authority

Legislative implications:

- Province of Alberta *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, RSA 2000
- Province of 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*
- Province of Alberta *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000

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*.

Approval date	April 13, 2021	Motion number	98-21	Page 1 of 2
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3. Herbicide applications will be performed only by pesticide applicators who have been trained in accordance with the Province of Alberta *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulation*.

Policy responsibilities*Council responsibilities:*

Council will,

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

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 Province of 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

- This policy will be posted on Leduc County's website.
- This policy will be reviewed at least once every four years.