

### **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. ~~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 **Province of 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 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.

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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 **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.

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