

# P O L I C Y



Department <b>Agriculture</b>	Policy No. <b>AG(2)</b>	Page <b>1 of 2</b>
Policy Title <b>WEED AND BRUSH CONTROL</b>	Date: <b>February 25, 2021</b>	Resolution No. <b>C/76/21</b>

## **Policy Statement:**

Lacombe County recognizes a responsibility to control weeds and brush on road right-of-ways as well as on County owned property. Responsibility for weed control is legislated under Alberta's *Weed Control Act*. Weed control will be carried out to prevent the establishment of noxious weeds and to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds. Brush species will be controlled to enhance public safety on roads and protect the integrity of the road surface.

In carrying out control of weeds and brush, Lacombe County will employ an Integrated Vegetation Management approach. This approach will employ methods of vegetation control that are effective and provide for a minimum amount of impact on the surrounding environment.

## **Guidelines/Procedures:**

### 1. Strategies for Control

The following strategies may be employed for the control of weeds and brush:

- a) Application of registered herbicides;
- b) Mowing or hand cutting; and
- c) A combination of mowing and herbicide applications.

### 2. Scope of Program

This work will be carried out on the following lands as determined by the County Manager, or designate:

- a) All County owned properties;
- b) All County controlled road right-of-ways; and
- c) On provincial road right-of-ways when directed by agreement with the Government of Alberta.

### 3. Herbicide Application Operations

All herbicide applications are to be carried out in a safe and responsible manner and only when weather conditions are favorable.

Policy Title <b>WEED AND BRUSH CONTROL</b>	Policy No. <b>AG(2)</b>	Page <b>2 of 2</b>
---	----------------------------	-----------------------

- a) Water used with the herbicides will only be obtained from safe sources such as municipal water systems.
- b) Spray Operator(s) shall be licensed and the operator(s) shall record all the necessary information required by Alberta Environment and Parks and the County.
- c) Personal protective equipment such as respirators, replacement cartridges, aprons, potable water, rubber gloves, etc. must be available on each spray unit and utilized by sprayer operators.
- d) The following areas are not to be sprayed:
  - i. Directly in front of a farmstead or a residence on both sides of the road allowance. Noxious weed control in this area is the responsibility of the respective landowner or person in possession of the land.
  - ii. Alongside planted shelterbelts if the wind direction is not favorable.
  - iii. Alongside sensitive crops such as canola, potatoes, alfalfa, clover, peas, etc.
  - iv. Alongside greenhouse operations, tree nurseries and gardens.
  - v. Beyond the property line of the road allowance.
  - vi. Areas designated as “No Spray” Zones pursuant to County Policy AG(7).
- e) All herbicide applications will be carried out in accordance with label recommendations.

#### 4. Mowing Operations

- a) Operators shall at all times consider road traffic when conducting mowing operation.
- b) Mowing units will be equipped with beacons and flashing lights and shall be operating at all times when mowers are cutting.
- c) When mowers are used to cut brush species the maximum caliper diameter of the brush should not exceed 4” (10 cm).
- d) Mowing will only be carried out during daylight hours and not during foggy weather.
- e) Mower operators will be trained to identify prohibited noxious and noxious weeds. Scentless chamomile will be hand-picked and bagged when discovered.