

VULCAN COUNTY POLICY NO. 62-1016	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY
Effective: November 22, 2017	Amended: February 28, 2024
Cross Reference: CC 2017-11-22-22; CC 2024-02-28-04	Page 1 of 6
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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

1) PURPOSE

- a) Vegetation growth in road allowances and on other County property can cause many problems including spreading of Prohibited Noxious, Noxious, bylaw controlled, and nuisance weeds into agricultural and environmentally significant lands, reduced visibility of traffic/signage/vehicles/wildlife, excess snow drift, reduced drainage, and negative impacts on the integrity of road and land infrastructure.

2) DEFENITIONS

- a) **“Control”**: to destroy or inhibit the growth or spread of vegetation.
- b) **“Control Area”**: the area in which vegetation Control operations shall be performed.
- c) **“Regulated Weeds”**: Weeds identified either under Alberta’s Weed Control Regulation or Vulcan County Bylaws.
- d) **“Nuisance Weeds”**: Undesirable weeds not regulated by the Alberta Weed Control Act nor Vulcan County Bylaws, but of concern for the Vulcan County.
- e) **“Pesticide”**: A chemical means of Control including herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and rodenticides.
- f) **“Mechanical”**: Non-Pesticide means of Control including mowing, cutting, hand-pulling, mulching, and tilling.
- g) **“Reinstate”**: Pesticides diluted with water resulting from the cleaning process of spray equipment and containers.
- h) **“Work Area”**: the area determined by the Director of Agricultural Services or designate in which weed Control activities will be performed.

3) GUIDELINES

- a) Pesticide Control, mowing, and other Integrated Pest Management strategies shall be utilized as a means to control Regulated and Nuisance weeds.
- b) Pesticide Control shall occur annually, consistent with the standards and good practices set out under the Professional Vegetation Managers Association of Alberta (PVMA), the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides, and in accordance with applicable Federal and Provincial legislation.

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- c) Mechanical Control methods may be utilized where Pesticide Control is unsuitable and/or would be ineffective, or where it would be beneficially utilized in addition to Pesticide Control.
- d) Mechanical Control methods may occur annually and repeated as deemed necessary by the Director of Agricultural Services throughout the growing season.
- e) All Pesticides and procedures used will meet Health Canada standards.
- f) Vulcan County shall employ at minimum one Certified Pesticide Applicator (Industrial). All spray operations staff will be at a minimum trained and certified as an Authorized Assistant.
- g) Weed Control requests from the public will be taken and as approved by the Director of Agricultural Services or Agricultural Fieldman shall be added to the schedule based on priority.
- h) Weed Control on Private Property or Undeveloped Road Allowances shall only be done if it benefits Vulcan County and as approved by the Director of Agricultural Services. A Right of Entry Agreement shall be completed prior to entry onto private land.
- i) No compensation shall be given to landowners/holders for damages incurred in the Work Area between the fence lines that appear to mark the edges of the Road Allowance due to the Vegetation Control Program.
- j) **NO SPRAY REQUESTS (Schedule 'A')**
 - i) Vulcan County offers landowners the ability to request no Pesticide to be applied in the Control Area adjacent to their property through a No Spray Request, at the discretion of the Director of Agricultural Services.
 - ii) Landowners/holders shall agree to control any weed concerns in the Control Area along the whole property stated in the No Spray Request to the satisfaction of the Director of Agricultural Services.
 - iii) If the Landowner/holder's Control measures are not deemed adequate prior to August 1st of that calendar year, they shall be contacted by Vulcan County and shall then have five business days to correct the problem. If Control measures have not taken place in this period, Vulcan County's staff shall, at the discretion of the Director of Agricultural Services, then remedy the situation by whatever means deemed appropriate and the No Spray Request may be terminated indefinitely.

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- iv) No Spray Requests are to be submitted prior to May 1st of each calendar year. Any requests submitted on or after May 1st will be processed but not necessarily added to the No Spray List before vegetation Control activities commence.
- v) The No Spray Request will be valid for one spray season. No Spray Requests will only be valid for the control of weeds and brush using Pesticides and does not include any mechanical Controls.
- vi) The No Spray Request is not valid for other Vegetation Control companies performing work in the Control Area.

4) PROCEDURES

- a) Application records shall be kept in accordance with Federal and Provincial legislation. Record keeping shall be the responsibility of the applicator at the time of application.
- b) The Pesticide Applicator will follow directions and precautions on the pesticide labels and the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides.
- c) All staff involved in spraying operations shall have access to and carry labels and SDS sheets when spray operations are underway.
- d) Pesticide Control activities shall be conducted only when environmental conditions are favourable and meet all label recommendations. Spraying activities shall cease at temperatures at or above 30 degrees Celsius, wind speeds in excess of 20 km/hr consistently, and/or spray drift is visible.
- e) Mixing of pesticides, loading of spray equipment, disposal of Reinstatement, and disposal of Pesticide containers shall be done in accordance with label directions and regulations, and when possible, will be performed at the Agricultural Services Shop.
- f) Spray equipment will be stored and/or parked in accordance with label directions and regulations. When possible, spray equipment will be stored in the Agricultural Services Shop.
- g) All safety equipment required as per the Pesticide label and SDS sheets shall be provided by Vulcan County and shall be the responsibility of the staff to wear.

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- h) Water required for the spraying operations shall be sourced from controlled sources and shall not negatively impact the public. Water tanks shall be filled in such a manner that environmental and public safety shall not be threatened.
- i) Operators shall conduct operations keeping traffic safety in mind at all times. Operations shall only be conducted during daylight hours and at times of good visibility.

5) ROADSIDE SPRAYING

- a) The roadside spraying program shall be determined by an annual budget.
- b) Roadside spraying priority areas shall be determined by the Agricultural Fieldman.
- c) The Vulcan County road network shall be sprayed with registered Pesticides to control Regulated and Nuisance weeds.
- d) Vulcan County will not be held liable for any crop loss or damage that occurs growing on the County Rights-of-Way.
- e) Roadside spraying will commence in the Spring and continue throughout the fall of each year.
- f) Where applicable, all spraying will be from the shoulder of the road to the property line.
- g) The following areas will not be sprayed:
 - i) Rights-of-Way directly adjacent to farmsteads and dwellings.
 - ii) Rights-of-Way within 1.5 times the height of nearest trees and tree shelterbelts.
 - iii) Within 100 meters of beehives.
 - iv) Where water bodies are within 30 meters of the Right-of-Way.
 - v) Private lanes including oil and gas well sites.
- h) Efforts will be made to avoid spraying sensitive areas such as native grass stands and wildflowers along Rights-of-Way, or areas where livestock grazing is occurring.
- i) Application records shall be recorded in accordance with the Pesticide (Ministerial) Regulation of Alberta via GIS tracking or other means if necessary and retained for a minimum of five years.

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6) REFERENCES

- a) Right of Entry Agreement
- b) Alberta's Weed Control Regulation. Alberta Regulation 19/2010.
- c) Alberta's Weed Control Act. Statutes of Alberta, 2008. Chapter W-5.1.
- d) Alberta's Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides. Made under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000 cE-12.
- e) Pesticide (Ministerial) Regulation.



No Spray Request

Vulcan County understands the different sensitivities that landowners/tenants have towards Pesticides and offers landowners/tenants the ability to request no Pesticide to be applied in the Control Area adjacent to their property through a No Spray Request.

The request may be approved at the discretion of the Director of Agricultural Services, subject to the following conditions:

1. Requests are submitted to the Director of Agricultural Services at Vulcan County no later than 11:59pm April 30th of each calendar year.
2. Landowners/tenants shall agree to control any weed concerns in the No Spray Area to the satisfaction of the Director of Agricultural Services.
3. If the Landowner/holder's control measures are not deemed adequate prior to August 1st of that calendar year, they shall be contacted by Vulcan County and shall then have five business days to correct the problem. If control measures have not taken place in this period, Vulcan County staff shall, at the discretion of the Director of Agricultural Services, then remedy the situation by whatever means deemed appropriate and the No Spray Request may be terminated indefinitely.
4. The No Spray Request will be valid for one spray season. No Spray Requests will only be valid for the control of weeds and brush using Pesticides and does not include any Mechanical Controls.
5. The No Spray Request is not valid for other Vegetation Control companies performing work in the Control Area.
6. Vulcan County reserves the right to cancel any agreements and implement any control deemed necessary at any time.

Any requests submitted on or after May 1st will be processed but not necessarily added to the No Spray List before Vegetation Control activities commence.

Vulcan County will, to the best of their ability, avoid applying herbicides to any land that has a current "No Spray Request" in place, provided all above conditions have been met to the satisfaction of the Director of Agricultural Services.

I, _____
(NAME)

of _____
(ADDRESS)

have read the conditions stated above and agree to abide by them on the following properties:

(Signature)

(Date)

(Vulcan County)

(Date)