

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2022-074**

**Being a By-law to adopt the Grey Highlands Weed and Vegetation Spraying Policy A-09-T18**

**Whereas,** The Municipality has a responsibility to maintain its publicly traveled roadways, roadside allowances, sidewalks, parks and other Municipally owned properties as to ensure the safety of all potential users.

**Whereas,** The Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. W.5 Sec. 3 states that every person in possession of land shall destroy all noxious weeds on it. R.S.O. 1990, c. W.5, s. 3; and

**Whereas,** on July 6, 2022 Council approved staff report TPS.22.21 and that a By-law to adopt the policy come to a future Council meeting;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That the Weed and Vegetation Spraying Policy A-09-T18 is hereby adopted in substantially the same form as attached hereto; and
2. That this By-law comes into full force and effect upon the final passage thereof.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on July 20 2022.

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

Original Signed By

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Paul McQueen, Mayor

Original Signed By

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Raylene Martell, Municipal Clerk

Status: Passed

## **Municipality of Grey Highlands Policy**

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**Policy Name: Weed and Vegetation Spraying Policy**

**DRAFT Policy Number: A09-T-18**

**Department: Transportation & Public Spaces**

**Authority: Director, Transportation & Public Spaces**

**Effective Date: 2022-07-20**

**Supersedes: n/a**

**Last Modified: n/a**

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### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1** The Municipality has a responsibility to maintain its publicly traveled roadways, roadside allowances, sidewalks, parks and other Municipally owned properties as to ensure the safety of all potential users.

The following weed and vegetation spraying policy has been developed to help reduce the infestation of noxious weeds and brush that negatively impact the roadsides, trails and parks, and the industries of agriculture and horticulture in our area. Because of their aggressive growth and lack of natural enemies in the County of Grey, noxious weeds can be highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control. Noxious weed species can reduce crop yields, destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, lower land values, create erosion problems and fire hazards. It is also intended to aid in the reduction of health hazards to humans and livestock caused by poisonous plants. Additionally, the encroachment of brush (native and invasive species) impedes positive drainage, utilities, sight lines and obstruct safety devices such as road signs, guardrails and bridge approaches.

The introduction of exotic weed species occurs with a steady influx of people from all parts of the country transporting livestock, animal feed, commercial products, off-road vehicles, gardening, construction equipment and other vessels for weed seed movement. It is with this in mind that these weeds also need to be controlled so as not to affect the future marketing of local products to other regions.

As the caretaker of the municipal R.O.W. it is the Municipality's responsibility to maintain the lands which it has deemed affected, this includes the control of noxious weeds as prescribed in the *Weed Control Act*. The intent is to incorporate those methods that are the least environmentally damaging and are practical, timely, and economically feasible.

This policy provides the framework in order to provide an active management plan to effectively manage and control the growth of brush and noxious weeds including Giant Hogweed, Wild Parsnip, Poison Ivy and Wild Chervil. Of major importance is the need to educate staff and the general public in understanding the scope of the problem. It is with this directive in mind that this policy provides a more aggressive plan to deal with the infestation of the most damaging species of noxious weeds in the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

## **2 Scope**

- 2.1** This policy applies to municipally owned properties in the Municipality of Grey Highlands in its entirety (Urban and Rural areas).

## **3 Policy**

### **3.1 Noxious Weeds and Vegetation Control**

Roadside spraying of brush and vegetation will be applied to provide safe sightline distances for the traveling public on roads and sidewalks. Brush, weeds and grass must be removed when it reduces the visibility of features such as signs, guardrails, bridges, intersecting roads, driveways and to promote positive drainage along with adequate snow storage.

- 3.1.1 Under the authority of the *Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. W.5*, the control of noxious weeds will be implemented by applying herbicides on Municipally owned property on a proactive and reactive basis.

- 3.1.2 Under the direction of Grey Highlands Council, Invasive Plant Species (Phragmites) will be controlled by applying herbicides on Municipally owned properties on a proactive and reactive basis.

## **4 Implementation**

- 4.1** The application of herbicides will be undertaken by fully certified/licensed Municipal staff and/or certified/licensed contractors.

All Provincial (MECP) and Federal regulations and guidelines in relation to application rates and notifications will be adhered to.

Only roadsides and Municipally owned properties will be sprayed with herbicides.

Application methods for herbicides will be applied using but not limited to: backpack applicator, hose and reel (for spot applications) and broadcast with truck mounted spray boom for larger areas of control.

Control will be from the edge of road to 0.5 meters from property line along Municipal right of ways.

Dependent on the species being treated and the herbicide manufacturer's recommendation, applications will be carried out from early May to the end of September.

## **5 Notifications**

**5.1** Notification of spraying will be applied as outlined under the *Pesticides Act, O. Reg. 63/09*.