

WEED NOTICES POLICY #62.4.1

POLICY STATEMENT

The Council of the County of Wetaskiwin shall enforce the *Weed Control Act* within the County of Wetaskiwin for the betterment of all producers and residents.

PROCEDURES

Weed Inspectors are hired and trained by the County of Wetaskiwin and patrol all land areas within the County boundaries for the purposes of identifying and eliminating noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. Authorities for issuing weed notices and weed reports are granted by virtue of the *Weed Control Act*.

Upon identification of a noxious or prohibited noxious weed on private or public land within the County of Wetaskiwin, the following procedures shall be follows:

1. The Weed Inspector will make every attempt to verbally notify the producer of the weed problem.
2. A weed report is issued if (a) if the Weed Inspector is unable to meet and provide verbal notice or (b) if, after giving a verbal notice; the producer fails to take any action.
3. A second report is may be issued if the producer continues to fail to take action.
4. A Weed Notice may be issued if (a) after the weed report the producer fails to take any action or (b) if the action taken does not satisfy the Weed Inspector.

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July 6, 1999 Ref. Page 99/222 C April 3, 2012 Resolution No. CG20120403.1037	May 5, 1998	98/195 C	1 of 2
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5. If the producer does not satisfy the conditions of the Weed Notice, two avenues are available:
 - (a) proceed with legal court action or
 - (b) mitigate the weed control problem utilizing contract or County resources and invoice the producer for the work performed.
6. Should action as described in 5(b) be taken, and the landowner fails to remit payment for the work performed, the Administrator shall review the invoice and is authorized under the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 553 and the *Weed Act* to apply any unpaid amount against the Landowner's property taxes.
7. In the event of litigation a second Weed Notice may be issued if the Courts find the producer to be at fault and the producer continues to fail to take action.

These steps are used primarily for "first time offenders". For those producers who were previously issued notices or have outstanding notices, the Weed Inspectors proceed immediately to step #4 and issue a Weed Notice. If the problem is deemed severe enough, a Weed Notice may be issued the current year for control work for the following year.

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July 6, 1999 Ref. Page 99/222 C April 3, 2012 Resolution No. CG20120403.1037	May 5, 1998	98/195 C	2 of 2