

# CITY POLICY



**POLICY NUMBER: C501A**

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**REFERENCE:**

City Council 2004 02 24  
City Council 2003 09 18-19

**ADOPTED BY:**

City Council July 3, 2019

**SUPERSEDES:**

**C501**

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**PREPARED BY:** Citizen Services

**DATE:** July 3, 2019

**TITLE:** **Integrated Pest Management**

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**Policy Statement:** The City of Edmonton carries out pest management activities to maintain City-owned properties and public spaces. The City is committed to applying an Integrated Pest Management approach to all City pest management activities undertaken by City staff and City-hired contractors, whether on or off City property.

This Integrated Pest Management approach will prioritize preventative methods of pest management and will support long-term management of pests using a combination of techniques including mechanical and physical treatments, biological control, habitat manipulation, and judicious application of pesticides.

Specific pest management actions will be selected using an evidence-based decision-making framework that accounts for human health and safety, long-term ecosystem sustainability, and efficacy against the targeted pest. To support accountability to the public, City staff and City-hired contractors will be required to document their decision-making and demonstrate compliance with the principles of Integrated Pest Management. Furthermore, the City commits to ongoing public communication regarding City pest management activities, contributing to public education related to pest management, and identifying and pursuing opportunities for continual improvement.

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**The purpose of this policy is to:** provide a decision-making framework for integrated pest management to protect public health and safety, to preserve ecological sustainability, to promote livability, and to comply with legislative obligations with respect to regulated pests and invasive species.

The four key principles underpinning the City's Integrated Pest Management policy are **accountability, efficacy, health and safety, and sustainability**. As described below, these principles will guide the application of the Integrated Pest Management policy to pest management activities undertaken by City staff and City-hired contractors. Whenever pest

management decisions are undertaken, consideration of all the below principles will be documented.

### **Accountability**

- The City will be accountable to its regulatory responsibilities to the federal and provincial governments as well as to its own City policies and procedures with respect to use, storage, transportation, and disposal of pesticides.
- The City will comply with its obligations with respect to regulated pests and invasive species.
- The City will be accountable to the public regarding its Integrated Pest Management activities, including application of pesticides. As such, the City will develop tools for effectively communicating City pest management activities to its citizens.
- The City will be accountable to the public with respect to managing pest infestations to maintain City-owned properties and public spaces, to protect public health and safety, to preserve ecological sustainability, and to promote livability. As such, the City will develop pest management strategies and action thresholds that will consider sustainability of the landscape for its intended use.

### **Efficacy**

- The decision-making framework will prioritize pest management actions that are expected to be effective against the identified pest under site specific conditions and level of pest infestation.
- Within the annual reporting cycle, selected treatment strategies will be reviewed based on program-specific pest monitoring data and this information will be used to enhance the outcomes of future pest management actions.
- Efforts will be made to identify novel or innovative approaches to pest prevention and pest management. These alternative techniques will be pilot tested for applicability and efficacy and will be considered for further implementation based on observed results.
- When a pesticide is selected as a suitable treatment, best practices with respect to timing and rate of pesticide application will be determined according to the federally regulated product label. Pesticides will be applied at the lowest effective rate on the product label appropriate to the site conditions and determined level of pest infestation.

### **Health and Safety**

- Pest management strategies and action thresholds will be developed that are protective of public health and safety.
- Selection of the most appropriate pest management strategy will take into account the occupational health and safety of pest management operators.
- All pesticide applications will comply with federally regulated label restrictions developed by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency to limit risk to formulators, applicators, and people working or living near where a pesticide is used.
- All City staff and contractors carrying out pest management activities on behalf of the City will receive appropriate training and certification.

### **Sustainability**

- The City will promote long-term ecosystem sustainability by prioritizing strategies that minimize negative effects to non-target organisms and preventing the development of pesticide resistant pest populations.
- The City will protect biodiversity and native habitats by preventing and controlling the establishment of invasive species and actively monitoring and managing pest populations.
- The City will facilitate and enhance opportunities for recreational activities and use of public spaces in identified park spaces for their intended use.

- The City will incorporate Integrated Pest Management principles, where feasible, into design and construction standards in project planning and implementation to support long-term management of pests.
- Only federally registered pesticides will be applied. These federally registered pesticides have been evaluated and granted a registration for use in Canada by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency. All pesticide applications will comply with the federally regulated label restrictions developed by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency during the registration process. These product labels describe any required conditions of use to protect human health and the environment.

# CITY PROCEDURE



**POLICY NUMBER: C501A**

**AUTHORITY:** City Manager

**EFFECTIVE  
DATE: July 3,  
2019**

**TITLE: Integrated Pest Management**

## 1. DEFINITIONS

Action threshold: The point at which a pest management action must be initiated to prevent a pest from causing enough damage to reach the 'effect threshold' defined for that pest. In the context of integrated pest management, the action undertaken to respond to a pest may include a variety of treatment approaches including mechanical and physical treatments, biological control, habitat manipulation, and judicious application of pesticides

Biological control: A pest management approach that incorporates other living organisms. Examples of biological control include introducing or encouraging natural enemies that are harmful to the target pest (e.g. predators that may consume the target pest or parasites that live on or in the pest in a way that is harmful to the pest) and using herbivores to consume unwanted weeds.

Federally registered pesticide: Pesticides that have been evaluated and granted a registration for use in Canada by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

Habitat manipulation: A pest management approach that involves limiting the availability of suitable habitat for pests. This may involve removing available food sources or eliminating shelter for the pests. For example, limiting access to garbage and food waste to manage vertebrate pests such as mice, rats, or raccoons.

Integrated Pest Management: A pest management strategy that is focused on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as mechanical and physical treatments, biological control, habitat manipulation, and judicious application of pesticides.

Invasive species: Non-native species that have been introduced to Alberta from another ecosystem that threaten native Alberta habitat, ecosystems, and/or biodiversity.

Label: The label approved during the registration process for a federally registered pesticide by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency. The label is a legally binding document that describes pesticide storage, handling, application, and disposal requirements.

Lowest effective rate: The product labels for all federally registered pesticides describe acceptable product application rates specific to various conditions such as the pest being treated, time of year, region, soil type, and/or other pest or site-specific conditions. When a given pesticide has been selected for use by the City of Edmonton, it will be applied at the lowest application rate on the product label that is suitable to site conditions and the level of pest infestation or as approved by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

Mechanical and physical treatment: Use of equipment or the manipulation of physical conditions to manage pest populations. This includes the use of physical traps, noisemakers, and hand pulling or mowing of weeds.

Non-target organism: Any living organism that is not the target of a given pest management approach. Integrated pest management promotes sustainability by prioritizing strategies that minimize negative effects to non-target organisms. For example, when pest management is being applied to control weeds, non-target organisms include (but are not limited to) desired or beneficial plant species, insects, invertebrates, birds, and small mammals.

Occupational health and safety: Consideration of health and safety of workers related to their working conditions.

Pest: Any living organism that has an undesired effect.

Pesticide: Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency identifies pesticides as any product, device, organism, substance or thing that is manufactured, represented, sold or used as a means for directly or indirectly controlling, preventing, destroying, mitigating, attracting or repelling pests. This includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, animal and insect repellents, and insect- and rodent-controlling devices that may be used in City operations.

Regulated pest: A pest that the City of Edmonton has an obligation to monitor, control, and/or eliminate under applicable federal or provincial regulations such as (but not limited to) Alberta's *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act*, or *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*.

## 2. PROCEDURES

### 2.1. Responsibilities of City Manager:

- 2.1.1. Recommend to City Council approval of this Policy and amendments thereto.

### 2.2. Responsibilities of Deputy City Managers:

- 2.2.1. Integrated Pest Management Operations
- 2.2.1.1. Ensure that departments are aware of this Policy and have access to contact information for representatives that enforce this Policy, its intent and procedures.

- 2.2.1.2. Request the necessary resources and provide the direction that may be required to meet the obligations of this Policy. Develop and recommend an appropriate budget for the administration and implementation of the Policy.
  - 2.2.1.3. Coordinate Integrated Pest Management activities among relevant departments and programs through the Enviso environmental management system from the design stage of new projects through construction and maintenance activities.
  - 2.2.1.4. Reference the City Integrated Pest Management policy in all City pest management contractor agreements and internal administrative documents related to pest management.
  - 2.2.1.5. Establish a designated single point of contact for Integrated Pest Management-related public concerns or questions.
  - 2.2.1.6. Establish an Integrated Pest Management Operational Committee responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the success of the City's Integrated Pest Management policy and implementation, and an advisory group to provide strategic advice on pest management issues.
  - 2.2.1.7. Conducting a review of the Integrated Pest Management Policy every 5 years or as required.
- 2.2.2. Pesticide Management Programs
- 2.2.2.1. Identify and implement buffer zones and seasonal restrictions to minimize pesticide exposure around specific land uses.
  - 2.2.2.2. Maintain request-based pesticide exemption program that limit pesticide exposure around private property for program participants.
- 2.2.3. Public Engagement and Communication
- 2.2.3.1. Carry out public communication activities regarding status of pest infestations and pest management activities, including pesticide application events and other Integrated Pest Management activities.
  - 2.2.3.2. Provide ongoing opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement in pest management activities.
  - 2.2.3.3. Create opportunities for public education on the City of Edmonton's pest management activities, pest prevention techniques and tools, and pest identification.
- 2.2.4. Reporting
- 2.2.4.1. Establish procedures for City staff and City-hired contractors to document their pest management decision-making and demonstrate compliance with the principles of Integrated Pest Management.
  - 2.2.4.2. Generate an annual report summarizing all pest management activities undertaken by City staff and City-hired contractors on behalf of the City. This report will document how pest management strategies were selected,

summarize the effectiveness of applied treatments, identify potential improvements for future years, and report total pesticide usage for all City pest management activities undertaken by City staff and City-hired contractors (for City and non-City properties combined). This report will be made available to the public.