

Additional Background and Legislated Requirements

On June 23, 2015, Council directed a cosmetic herbicide restrictions on City-owned lands except where they are used to eradicate noxious weeds as defined by the Provincial noxious weed list, and in the following circumstances:

1. To prevent sanitary sewer pipe obstruction;
2. To control algal blooms on storm water facilities;
3. In the maintenance of high-profile and high-quality park and facilities (golf courses, bowling greens, sports fields such as staffed athletic facilities, premier sports fields, sports fields in district parks, cemetery burial plots, areas/parks involving high-profile and international events (including but not limited to, City Hall, Churchill Square, Louise McKinney Park and Hawrelak Park));
4. In commercial agriculture and horticulture crop production (e.g.. Muttart Conservatory, Old Man Creek Nursery);
5. To control weeds for fire safety management and drainage along LRT rail lines and to control plants and trees from structurally deteriorating hard surfaces (e.g. concrete, asphalt gravel, etc.); and
6. To allow low-risk herbicides (e.g. acetic acid, citric acid, herbicidal soap, corn gluten, iron chelate, and various bio-herbicides referred to as reduced risk herbicides by Health Canada).

As a result, the City no longer utilizes chemical control in shrub beds unless regulated weeds legislated under the Alberta *Weed Control Act* are present.

Legislation to Control Weeds

The *Weed Control Act* and the *Agricultural Pest Act* provide the legislative requirements to manage or control pests at a provincial level. The *Weed Control Act* regulates noxious weeds and prohibited noxious weeds (e.g.. weeds that present significant economic, social or ecological risks) and outlines the duties of individuals, local authorities, municipalities, and the Crown related to the prevention, control, and destruction of noxious weeds or prohibited noxious weeds. Administration is required to appoint inspectors to enforce and monitor compliance with the *Weed Control Act* within the municipality and must abide by the Act as any private citizen or corporation would. If compliance is lacking, the Province could choose to step into an enforcement role.

The *Agricultural Pest Act* specifies measures that can be undertaken to manage native and introduced pests and nuisances that affect agricultural production in Alberta. Under this Act, the City as a local authority is directed to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality.