



POLICY TITLE Municipal Vegetation & Weed Management Plan		ADOPTED BY RM Council Resolution No. 2022-04-27-009 EFFECTIVE DATE April 27, 2022	POLICY NO. 400-04
ORIGIN/AUTHORITY M Council	JURISDICTION RM of Frenchman Butte No. 501	Amended: August 14, 2024 Rescinded:	Resolution No. 2024-08-14-004 Resolution No.

1.0 OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the Vegetation & Weed Management Program for the Rural Municipality of Frenchman Butte No. 501 is to prevent the establishment of new Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs), eradicate small, isolated infestations of prohibited noxious and noxious weeds, contain and control those established noxious weeds that are established in the area, and ensure municipal right of ways are maintained. This is essential for continuation of municipal land use to its fullest extent, whether for crop production, livestock production, recreation, or safety.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND(S) AFFECTED BY THE PLAN:

2.1. The areas covered in this plan are those within the *Rural Municipality of Frenchman Butte No. 501*.

2.1.1. **Legal land locations included in this plan are:** Townships 50-55 and Ranges 22-27 (west of the 3rd meridian) which include portions north of the North Saskatchewan River.

2.2. General Description of the area:

2.2.1. Included in the area are: the Town of St. Walburg, the hamlet of Frenchman Butte, the Village of Paradise Hill, a Canadian National Rail line, Highways 3, 26 and 21, and south and west boundary of the north Saskatchewan River.

2.2.2. The area is a mix of crop land, hay land, forested land, pastureland with some organic farms.

2.2.2.1. Different land uses within this area necessitate distinct vegetation and weed management practices. For example, herbicides used for crop production differ from those used in pasture areas.

2.2.3. Extra surveillance is required on primary pathways, including traffic corridors and railways, to immediately address weeds that may establish and spread quickly. Monitoring of these areas is the responsibility of the Weed Inspector, but Canadian National and the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure are responsible for the costs of weed control on their own right of ways.

2.2.4. Farmers that are registered as organic producers must not lose their certification because of the off-target movement of herbicide during the spraying of weeds within or near their lands; however, organic producers are responsible for the creation of their own buffer zones to municipal rights-of-way.

3.0 WEED MANAGEMENT HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

The municipality is actively engaged in a comprehensive Common Tansy control program. This initiative utilizes GPS mapping and herbicide application to achieve long-term control of this



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invasive species. Without effective management, Common Tansy poses a significant threat, as it has the potential to overrun pasturelands within the municipality. In sensitive areas, such as those along the river, manual removal of the weeds may be necessary.

Similarly, the municipality is conducting an extensive program to control scentless chamomile. This operation also relies on GPS mapping and targeted herbicide application to manage the spread of this weed. If left unchecked, scentless chamomile could severely impact both cultivated and pasturelands.

In addition to these efforts, small infestations of leafy spurge and yellow toadflax have been identified within our boundaries. These invasive weeds are being managed with appropriate herbicides to either control or eradicate them.

Emerging concerns have arisen regarding Kochia, particularly near oil well sites. Improper herbicide management of Kochia can result in the development of herbicide-resistant plant communities, which would complicate future control efforts.

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES IN THE AREA:

4.1. Priority Weed Species:

In this area, weed species are prioritized based on their current presence and potential threat, as follows:

- 4.1.1. Yellow Toadflax:** Currently found in isolated patches, Yellow Toadflax is considered a high-priority weed due to its potential to establish in seeded forage and hay fields, making it difficult to control or eradicate.
- 4.1.2. Baby's Breath:** This weed is prioritized because it exists in isolated patches and spreads seeds similar to a tumbleweed. Baby's Breath reduces native grasses and forage, impacting grazing animals and wildlife.
- 4.1.3. Leafy Spurge:** Leafy Spurge, although currently in isolated patches, poses a significant threat to the productivity of cultivated land in the municipality. Managing this weed will require a long-term commitment.
- 4.1.4. Common Tansy:** Widespread along the North Saskatchewan River, Common Tansy is a high-priority weed due to its ability to reduce pastureland productivity and its potential toxicity to livestock. Long-term management is necessary to control its spread.
- 4.1.5. Scentless Chamomile:** Although isolated, Scentless Chamomile is spreading and poses a risk to the productivity of cultivated land in the municipality. Effective management will require ongoing efforts.
- 4.1.6. Kochia:** Kochia is a high-priority weed because of its potential to develop resistance to herbicides. As a tumbleweed, it can spread rapidly across crop and pasture lands, exacerbating its impact.

Note: According to the principles of Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), the highest priority is given to weeds that are present in smaller numbers, as controlling rarer weeds is a more efficient use of limited resources. Weeds covering larger areas are considered a lower priority. Medium-priority weeds will be addressed once high-priority weeds are under control.

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5.0 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT:

The RM of Frenchman Butte routinely evaluates tree and shrub growth near municipal township and range roads for encroachment and may mulch right of ways to maintain road passage, extend narrow ditches, and allow for road maintenance. These areas may also be selected for herbicide application if applicable.

5.1. Annual Ditch Mowing:

5.1.1. Annual mowing of municipal ditches is a critical component of the Vegetation and Weed Management Plan. This practice serves multiple purposes: it helps control the growth of invasive and noxious weeds by reducing their ability to seed and spread, maintains clear sightlines for traffic safety, and supports the overall health of roadside ecosystems.

5.1.2. Coordination with other vegetation management activities, such as herbicide application and surveillance of primary pathways, ensures that ditch mowing is an integrated part of the municipality's comprehensive approach to weed control. Regular mowing also assists in identifying areas that may require further treatment, allowing for timely intervention.

5.1.3. This practice is essential for maintaining the integrity of municipal rights-of-way and supports the broader goal of preventing the establishment and spread of invasive species within the Rural Municipality of Frenchman Butte No. 501.

6.0 BUDGET:

Proposed budget for 2024 Vegetation & Weed Management Activities:

COST	BUDGET (\$)
Labour	
Herbicides	
Equipment (purchase or rental)	
Other	
Total Invasive Plant Control Budget	\$25,000

7.0 DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED CONTROL ACTIVITIES:

7.1. Compliance with Schedule A of the Canada-Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Group Planning (AEGP) Program:

In accordance with the Canada-Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Group Planning (AEGP) Program's Schedule A for the current Invasive Plant Control Program (IPCP), the Rural Municipality of Frenchman Butte No. 501's Vegetation and Weed Management Plan ensures that all herbicide applications are performed in strict adherence to the guidelines and restrictions provided therein.

7.1.1. Herbicide Selection: The herbicides used for controlling invasive and noxious weeds, such as Yellow Toadflax, Leafy Spurge, Common Tansy, and Scentless Chamomile, will be selected from the list of approved herbicides in Schedule A. Specific products like Arsenal Powerline, Clearview, Reclaim II, Grazon XC, and Milestone will be applied based on their suitability for the targeted weed species and the land type (industrial sites, range, and



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pasture).

7.1.2. Application Compliance:

7.1.2.1. Application Rates: All herbicides will be applied according to the recommended rates listed in Schedule A to ensure effectiveness and environmental safety.

7.1.2.2. Buffer Zones: Special attention will be given to maintaining appropriate buffer zones near water bodies, sensitive plants, and other environmental features as mandated by the Schedule A guidelines.

7.1.2.3. Surfactant Use: When required, the correct surfactant or adjuvant will be added to the herbicide mixtures in compliance with the specifications in Schedule A.

7.1.3. Documentation and Monitoring: All herbicide applications, including details such as herbicide type, application rates, areas treated, and compliance with buffer zone requirements, will be documented. This documentation will be stored in a central file and monitored regularly to ensure adherence to the guidelines and to assess the effectiveness of the treatment.

7.1.4. Annual Review: This Vegetation Management Plan will be reviewed annually, and any updates to Schedule A or other regulatory guidelines will be incorporated into the plan to ensure ongoing compliance.

7.2. Control of High Priority weeds:

7.2.1. Yellow Toadflax, Scentless Chamomile, and Leafy Spurge patches can be eradicated with the use of registered herbicides. Please refer to SARM's Schedule A Herbicide Options for Selected Noxious Weeds yearly for guidance on acceptable herbicide selection.

7.2.1.1. If these listed herbicides are not available, an alternative herbicide may be selected.

7.2.2. Common Tansy is well established in areas along the river and there are also small infestations scattered around the municipality.

7.2.3. Every effort must be made to eradicate the small, isolated infestations by spraying and monitoring these sites every year.

7.2.3.1. Caution must be taken by licensed applicators when selecting herbicides to use near waterways because many move with water or persist in the soil. Use of alternative herbicides can be used in these sensitive areas. Areas along the river systems, for example, can be removed by hand.

7.2.4. Larger infested areas must also be sprayed to isolate and control these sites.

7.2.5. Canadian approved biological control agents can be applied to areas where Common Tansy occupies a continuous block or is not accessible for herbicide application or hand picking.

7.2.6. In areas where Common Tansy is found in forage fields or roadsides, the municipality will work with landholders to restrict the cutting and movement of hay to prevent the spread of this weed.

7.2.7. Awareness, education, monitoring, and communication with oil companies and landowners in shared boundaries regarding establishment and mapping where this weed occurs.

7.2.7.1. Treat as necessary if establishment is found on municipal right of ways.

7.3. Other Control Activities:

7.3.1. To prevent the introduction and establishment of new Prohibited or Noxious Weeds or other invasive plants, it is important for area residents be able to identify species of immediate concern and report them to the Weed Inspector so that they may be eradicated quickly with the use of herbicides or hand pulling.

7.3.2. These sites must be documented, retained in a central file and closely monitored. To accomplish this, a public awareness program may be required. The municipality will use the internet record keeping database imapinvasives.org to document Prohibited and Noxious weed infestations and records of management activities including herbicide applications,



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biocontrol releases, manual efforts, tillage, etc.

- 7.3.3. All noxious weed sites that are presently documented with GPS must be monitored as to the effectiveness of the control measures that were taken. A record will be kept of each site, that includes information such as size, weed density, site topography, soil type and control measures used.
- 7.3.4. All herbicide applications will be conducted by a licensed applicator using herbicides with the least risk of secondary impact to the environment and non-target plants, animals or fish.
- 7.3.5. Where required, permits will be acquired from Saskatchewan Environment to apply herbicides within 50 meters of water bodies.
- 7.3.6. Safe work procedures will be developed in accordance with The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OH&S) for potentially dangerous activities conducted by the weed inspector and for herbicide applications conducted by municipal applicators or if herbicide applicators are contracted, they must demonstrate that they have developed their own safe work procedures under OH&S.
- 7.3.7. This plan and weed management actions taken will be reviewed on a yearly basis and updated or modified where required.

6.0 REPEALING:

- 6.1. This policy shall be administered and interpreted by the CAO; however, this policy cannot be amended without Council approval.
- 6.2. This policy replaces all previous policies and resolutions that have been passed by the Council of the Rural Municipality of Frenchman Butte No. 501 with respect to the application of any and all parts of this policy and the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 6.3. This policy shall come into force and take effect on Aug 14, 2024, and shall continue in full force and effect until repealed or replaced by subsequent resolution of Council.

Municipal Authority:

This Weed Management Plan is authorized by Resolution # 2024-08-14-004

Signed:

Tom S. Hougham

(Type Name here)
Municipal Reeve

Allison Roschke

(Type Name here)
Administrator

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature

August 14, 2024

Date

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