

Integrated Pest Management Policy

Policy Number: 75/211
Adopted: Apr 10/06

POLICY STATEMENT

The Town of Lacombe is committed to providing safe and healthy urban environments. Whereas controlling weeds and other pests is important for the enjoyment and sustainability of these environments, this policy limits pesticide use in the management of pests on Town property. All forms of pest management activities on Town property will follow the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy. As such, a variety of preventive and non-chemical pest management strategies are used or considered before using the least toxic approved pesticide. Approved pesticide applications will be used in circumstances where alternative practices or products have failed to manage the pest. Standards of practice for pesticide application on Town property will continue to meet or exceed federal and provincial requirements.

The purpose of this policy is to minimize the use of pesticides on Town property but where required, use them responsibly in the control of pests by:

Ensuring that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy principles are adhered to as follows:

- i. The Town will use a system of expert identification of pests and natural enemies that may control them. This enables a knowledge-based approach to help assess a pest's impact on human or environmental health and subsequent pest management decisions.
- ii. The Town will use pest population monitoring methods and pest action thresholds, such as a weed standard, that, when reached, are key factors in the decision to conduct a management effort against a pest on Town property.
- iii. The Town will use a range of management options for a pest problem based on the following prioritized list, emphasizing pest prevention and non-chemical alternatives.

Prevention practices, (Example - selecting the proper planting site for a shade loving plant species)

Biological controls, (Example - specific imported wasp parasites of a birth leaf miner pest that originates from Europe.)

Chemical controls, (Example - synthetic pesticide products)

- iv. The Town will use and promote best pest management practices by evaluating the relative merits of various pest management options.

- v. The Town will use and promote sound pest prevention planning approaches on its property and in the acquisition of new lands. This includes the use of good Plant Health Care practices.
- vi. The Town will ensure that all programs involving pest management treatments on Town lands or in Town premises are reviewed annually to institute any possible improvements in accordance with the Town's commitment to IPM.

Furthermore, in accordance with the responsible use of pesticides, the Town ensures the following:

- i. That citizens are informed of all pesticide applications on Town property
- ii. That chemically sensitive citizens are given an option of special protection from risk of pesticide exposure from an application on Town property that is adjacent to their residence, an additional 10 metre herbicide-free buffer zone will be provided.
- iii. That registered day-cares and the play equipment areas of Town Playgrounds will be given an additional 30 metre herbicide-free buffer zone around them.
- iv. That when required, herbicide applications will be timed to avoid exposure to users of Town sports fields, campgrounds and picnic areas. Herbicide applications on sports fields and picnic sites will be restricted during the months of July and August and will only occur in the fall after the September long weekend.
- v. That pesticide amounts used on Town property will be reported annually.
- vi. That Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is adopted by all Town service areas and their agents either directly or indirectly involved in managing pest problems.
- vii. That the Town will provide staff training and leadership in Integrated Pest Management and ensure a number of staff are qualified applicators of pest control substances where such are required.
- viii. That the Town will promote IPM with other government agencies, municipalities, environmental groups and related industry associations in the region. Many pest problems extend far beyond the Town's boundaries and require a co-operative, regional approach to their management.

DEFINITIONS:

In this Policy:

Agents means employed staff or contractors working for the Town of Lacombe.

Approved Pesticide means a pesticide registered with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada.

Biological Controls means other organisms that prey specifically on a pest.

Chemical Controls means pesticides that are chemical products.

Town Playgrounds mean areas on Town property with children's play apparatus.

Town Property means land owned, occupied and maintained by the Town of Lacombe.

Cultural Practices means methods of care for optimal growth and a suitable environment for plant health.

Ecology means the study of an organism and its interaction with its environment.

Herbicide means a pesticide used for controlling undesirable plant life.

Herbicide-Free Buffer Zone means an area created with a certain linear distance perpendicular from a boundary within which herbicides will not be applied.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) means a multi-disciplinary, ecological approach to the management of pests based first on prevention and when needed, a control (biological, cultural, physical or mechanical intervention), saving registered pesticide application as a last resort.

Pest means an organism that causes damage, is a nuisance or interferes with the health, environmental, functional or aesthetic objectives of mankind.

Pesticide means a substance that prevents, repels, alters or kills unwanted pests. Pesticides include insecticides used against insects, herbicides to control weeds, rodenticides for rodent control, fungicides for fungi and so on.

Pest Action Threshold means the number or density of a pest when management action should be taken.

Physical Controls means machine trimming of weeds, mechanical traps or other devices like weather stripping under a door to prevent access by a pest.

Plant Health Care means cultural practices designed to maximize the well being of turf or other desired vegetation and minimize the chance of infestation or damage by pests.

POLICY

1. The Weed Control Standards will only apply to those broadleaf weeds not designated as noxious or restricted by provincial legislation i.e. Dandelion. The term weed control treatment includes any control measure that is deemed appropriate for the area in question and includes Cultural, Mechanical, Biological, and as a last resort Chemical, using the least toxic approved product.
2. Weeds designated as noxious or restricted by provincial legislation or by the Town of Lacombe Bylaw will be controlled as required by legislation. The threshold for Noxious Weeds is zero.
3. Control Methods:
 - a) Cultural (preventative): Plant Health Care (PHC)

These include Monitoring/Scheduling, Mowing, Fertilizing, Aerating, Top-dressing, Over-seeding, Irrigation, and De-thatching.
 - b) Mechanical / Manual:

These include mowing, machine trimming and manual removal when possible.
 - c) Biological:

Establishment of herbivore insects that selectively feed on a targeted noxious or invasive weed species.
 - d) Chemical:

The use of registered herbicides to provide selective control of weeds. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) proposes a variable level of service for the variable parks land use application (i.e. ornamental parks, recreation areas, roadways, right-of-ways, and municipal reserves). These locations are identified on the [Park Destinations map](#). The following are the definitions and standards for the purpose of this report.
 - e) Ornamental Park:

These areas are considered Lacombe's premier parks that showcase the community. They receive the highest care and generally have the most intensive usage. The target for these areas is a high quality turf, which is considered aesthetically

pleasing in highly visible sites.

Target: High quality turf

Action level: Average of 3 weeds per square metre

Action taken: Herbicide control with the exception of designated herbicide free zones

f) Recreation Areas:

These areas are generally larger community recreation areas and parks that may include combination of sports fields, campground, walkways, pond, playground and other recreation amenities. The target for these areas is a good quality of turf.

Target: Good quality turf

Action level: Average of 6 or more weeds per square metre

Action taken: Herbicide control with the exception of designated herbicide free areas and some spray period limitations

g) Neighborhood Parks:

These areas are generally playgrounds, neighborhood parks, walkways, and sports fields. The target for these areas is a good quality of turf.

Target: Good quality turf

Action level: Average of 6 or more weeds per square metre

Action taken: Herbicide control with the exception of designated herbicide free zones

h) Roadways, Walkways, Utility Right of Ways and Buffer MR's

These areas are generally roadways, walkways, right of ways areas that act as buffer zones against Developments or Roadways. The target for these areas is a fair quality ground cover.

Target: Good quality ground cover

Action level: Average of 10 or more weeds per square metre

Action taken: Herbicide control

i) Undeveloped

These areas are generally vacant lots, undeveloped parkland, and annexed roadways. for these areas is to have a ground cover.

Target: Ground Cover

Action level: None

Action taken: Mechanical mowing

4. Despite the provisions of this policy, the Town will not undertake the control or eradication of mosquitoes except where their proliferation present a recognized hazard to public health in which case the Town will participate with the Government of Alberta or David Thompson Health Region in special control and abatement programs.

Mayor

DATE: April 10, 2006

Chief Administrative Officer

RES: 06-134