



# Clear Hills County

Effective Date: May 10, 2011	Policy Number <b>6304</b>
Title: <b>ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONTROL</b>	

## 1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Clear Hills County strives to maintain roadsides that have a high level of visibility, support adequate drainage, prevent weeds from spreading and are aesthetically acceptable.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1. Roadside - that portion of the road allowance that extends from the edge of the driving surface to the adjacent property line.

## 3. Purpose

- 3.1. To provide direction to administration for the control of roadside vegetation in an environmentally safe, publicly acceptable and cost effective manner.

## 4. Responsibilities

### 4.1. Brushing

#### 4.1.1. Public Works Manager will:

- 4.1.1.1. provide council with an annual project plan to remove all brush from County roadsides by December 2012;
- 4.1.1.2. Contract and/or operate equipment for clearing and mulching of trees and brush;
- 4.1.1.3. provide follow up inspections to insure roads and roadsides are clear of brushing debris, stumps and mounds;
- 4.1.1.4. obtain any necessary warranty work from contractors following the inspection of the completed job;
- 4.1.1.5. seed suitable pasture seed mix, as required, to prevent erosion and weed competition;
- 4.1.1.6. Notify in writing landowners with property adjacent to the roadsides included in the annual brushing program plan prior to work commencing.

### 4.2. Do Not Brush Backslope program

- 4.2.1. The Do Not Brush Backslope program is available for persons who want to retain the trees and brush on the backslope of the road allowance in front of their residence.

- 4.2.2. Landowners must request in writing for the County Brushing Program to leave the trees and brush on the backslope of the road allowance in front of their residence.

#### 4.3. Spraying

- 4.3.1. The program will focus on brush control to prevent regrowth and vegetation as listed in the Weed Control Act of Alberta and/or plants designated by County by-law and are the same as the Agricultural Service Board expects the public to control.

- 4.3.2. Spraying will not occur adjacent to yard sites or known herbicide sensitive vegetation such as gardens or shelterbelts or within the legislated setback from water bodies and water sources.

- 4.3.3. Agricultural Services staff will:

- 4.3.3.1. Contract for and or apply herbicide to kill brush regrowth in the year following the brushing program.
- 4.3.3.2. Contractor for and or apply herbicide to Noxious & Prohibited Noxious weeds to prevent weed spread & weed seed propagation;
- 4.3.3.3. select herbicide based on the following criteria:
  - Registered for use in Alberta
  - Registered for control of the target vegetation
  - Cost effectiveness
  - Suitability for site, application conditions and will not increase environmental foot print.

#### 4.4. Do Not Spray Program:

- 4.4.1. The Do Not Spray program is available for persons who do not want the roadside adjacent to their property sprayed.
- 4.4.2. Landowners must complete and sign a Roadside Spraying form stating that they do not wish to have the road allowance adjacent to specific land locations sprayed,
- 4.4.3. Landowners accept full responsibility for weed and brush control within the stated road allowance.
- 4.4.4. Failure to control the weeds and brush in the current growing season will result in the County controlling the weeds and brush in accordance with this policy.

#### 4.5. Mowing

##### 4.5.1. Public Works Manager will:

4.5.1.1. provide council with an annual project plan to mow County owned roadside ditches.

4.5.1.2. Contract and/or operate equipment to mow County owned roadside ditches.

4.5.2. Mowing operations will rotate throughout the County on an annual basis, as per the project plan approved by council, to ensure all roads are maintained as efficiently as possible.

##### 4.5.3. Administration will prioritize the mowing of roads as follows:

4.5.3.1. Market Roads: first priority; annually mow to outside edge of road right-of-way (fence line to fence line).

4.5.3.2. Local roads: second priority; annually mow to outside edge of mowable road right-of-way (property line to property line).

4.5.3.3. All other roads: last priority: annually mow to outside edge of mowable road right-of-way (property line to property line) as needed for brush between 4 and 6 feet in height adjacent to road.

#### 4.6. Alternative Weed Control Methods

4.6.1. In Environmentally sensitive areas due to soil structure, native species sensitivity or where legislated setback from water bodies and water sources prevent the application of herbicides, mowing or brushing Agricultural Services staff will implement alternative weed control methods such as hand picking or use of biological controls.

### 5. **Reference to Legislation**

5.1. Weed Control Act

### 6. **Related Policies**

6.1. Property Line Spraying Policy 6309

### 7. **End of Policy**

ADOPTED: Resolution C262(03/29/11)

AMENDED: Resolution C408(05/10/11)