

Selkirk Weed Control District

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Why are we controlling weeds or other vegetation by spraying in the municipality?

- a) The Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba requires by law that municipalities inspect, monitor and control (or destroy) noxious weeds within their borders. All landowners are responsible for Noxious Weeds on their property. The SWCD is responsible for weed control on municipal property in the District and enforcing the NWA on all other property in the District. Multiple weed control methods are considered, and sometimes herbicide application (spraying) is the best option.
- b) Noxious weeds can pose a threat to the economy (eg. Agriculture), the environment (eg. invasive weeds) and human or animal health (eg. poisonous weeds). Often weeds and their seeds are spread by mowing and moving crops, hay and soiled equipment (ATVs), places like roadsides are sprayed with an appropriate herbicide to combat the spread of noxious weeds.
- c) Other vegetation controlled by spraying may be bulrushes or brush to help clear drainage ditches and create safe road visibility, or vegetation growing at the landfills or public works yards that pose a fire hazard but are not accessible for mowing. Public paths or sidewalks may be sprayed to keep them clear and maintained for use.

2) What herbicides are being used by SWCD?

- a) A public notice is published in local newspapers and on the RM website every spring listing the herbicides that MAY be used in the SWCD. (see attached)
- b) Typically, less than 8 different herbicides are used by SWCD on all the municipal property in the Weed District. One or two appropriate herbicides may be used in a single area over an entire summer.
- c) A post-season report is filed with MB Conservation's Pesticide Section detailing the use of all herbicides or other pesticides in the SWCD.

3) Where and when are herbicides being applied by SWCD?

- a) Generally, between May 1 and September 30, as stated on the Pesticide Use Permit and Public Notice. Application dates vary depending on what is being controlled and the weather conditions.
- b) Locations of spraying include Municipal property such as roadsides and ditches, dumps and landfills, parks and public paths, and public works yards.
- c) When herbicides are being applied in public active-use areas (like parks or trails), the area may be temporarily closed (if required) and information signs are posted about what is being sprayed and when it is safe to enter the area again.

4) Who is applying herbicides for SWCD?

- a) All SWCD applicators are professionals who are trained by the SWCD, licensed by the province, and insured by the RM. To get a MB Pesticide Applicator License as a Rural Municipal Pesticide Applicator, an individual must pass two exams every five years. The SWCD Weed Supervisor ensures that staff are re-oriented annually on current policies and procedures.

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5) Are the herbicides the SWCD uses safe?

- a) All Herbicides used by the SWCD must be listed on a Pesticide Use Permit issued by MB Conservation and Approved for use in Canada by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA, a department of Health Canada).
- b) All Herbicides must be used only according to the Health Canada approved Pesticide Label and Manitoba Pesticide Regulations.
- c) Applicators are careful to apply herbicides only where they are required, and in conditions that prevent herbicide sprays from moving off-site. We do not spray in high winds, or in rainy or wet conditions.
- d) The SWCD Weed Supervisor looks for the safest herbicide options for controlling weeds and vegetation to protect the Applicators, Public, and the environment.
- e) Both PMRA and MB Conservation Environment Officers can and have done random inspections of our operations to ensure SWCD is following pesticide use laws and guidelines.
- f) Herbicides work by interrupting or modifying a biological process within the target plant, leading to the plant being controlled. These plant-based biological processes do not exist in insects and animals, so when used according to the label, herbicides only affect the plants they are designed to control.

6) Can I ask for a buffer/no-spray zone around my property?

- a) Yes, please contact MB Conservation Pesticide Section or the SWCD Weed Supervisor.
- b) You can only request a buffer zone adjacent to property you own, occupy/rent, or are legal agent to.
- c) Please continue to request a buffer zone annually to ensure records are kept up to date.

7) What is the Non-Essential Pesticide Regulation/Cosmetic Pesticide Ban?

- a) This MB regulation prohibits the use of synthetic pesticides on lawns and sidewalks or paths adjacent to lawns. This includes parks and sports fields.
- b) Areas that are NOT associated with lawns are exempt from the regulation; these include gardens, parking lots, sidewalks not adjacent to lawns, ditches, roadsides and boulevards.
- c) Enforcing the Noxious Weeds Act supersedes the Non-Essential Pesticide Regulations where weeds are considered more than a nuisance or cosmetic issue (eg. Poisonous plants and Tier 1 or 2 noxious weeds requiring complete destruction).
- d) List of pesticides allowed on lawns, sidewalks or paths (see attached list).

8) Are dandelions Noxious Weeds? What can be done about them?

- a) Dandelions are a Tier 3 Noxious weed under the MB Noxious Weeds Act. This means property owners are only required to control them if they may cause harm to people, the economy (ie. Farms), and the environment.
- b) Since their presence in residential or urban settings is typically a cosmetic issue, SWCD would not issue a weed notice to property owners with dandelions.
- c) Controlling dandelions is also considered cosmetic or non-essential, therefore the Non-Essential Pesticide Regulations apply.

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Pesticide Use Public Notice – Published April 2020

Public Notice is hereby given that the Selkirk Weed Control District, which includes the **City of Selkirk, Town of Winnipeg Beach, R.M. of St. Andrews and R.M. of St. Clements**, intends to conduct the following pesticide control programs during 2020 as necessary, depending on infestation.

1. To control noxious weeds and unwanted vegetation where necessary on municipal/town/city property including parking lots, landfills, public works yards, ROWs, ditches, boulevards, parks, trails, cemeteries, and other public property using *2,4-D, Flumioxazin, Glyphosate, Picloram, Simazine, Dicamba, Imazapyr, Mecoprop, Metsulfuron-methyl, Aminopyralid, Aminocyclopyrachlor, amatrol, Sulfuron-methyl, triclopyr, Iron (FeHEDTA), Acetic Acid, and Lactic Acid*.
2. To control bulrushes and other vegetation in municipal drainage using *Glyphosate and LI700*.
3. To control aquatic vegetation/algae in and around retention ponds and lagoons using *Diquat ion*.
4. To control insect pests, including: mosquitoes, grasshoppers or Elm Bark Beetle, using *Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis, Carbaryl, Deltamethrin and Chlorpyrifos*.

The projected dates of application will be from May 15 to October 31, 2020. Requests for property buffers must register annually. The public may send written submissions within 15 days of this publication of this notice to:

**Manitoba Sustainable Development
Environmental Approvals Branch
1007 Century Street, Winnipeg, MB R3H 0W4**

Phone: 204-945-6784 or 1-800-214-6497

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Pesticides allowed on Lawns and Sidewalks under Non-Essential Pesticide Regulations

Corn Gluten Meal: All-natural corn gluten meal can be used as a pre-emergent herbicide, which inhibits root formation during germination. It controls crabgrass, dandelions and reduces the germination rate for curly dock, knotweed, lambs quarters, pigweed, and plantain. It contains 10% nitrogen by weight, thus making it an ideal "weed and feed" product. Please read [How to use Corn Gluten Meal](#) by Dr. Nick Christians for proper use of corn gluten meal. Corn gluten meal can be in fine yellow powder form or in gold pellets. The pellets are easier to use and are effective for up to six weeks.

Iron Based Lawn Weed Killer: Iron based weed killers are effective in the treatment of broadleaf weeds in lawns, turf, parks, and playgrounds. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs published a paper on [Herbicidal Activity and Cost Effectiveness of Fiesta Chelated Iron in Broadcast and Targeted Applications to Turfgrass Infested with Dandelion, Broadleaf Plantain, and other Rosette weeds](#). The Guelph Turfgrass Institute has been conducting further research on these products.



Corn Gluten Meal

Photo credit: Cooperative Extension, University of Connecticut.

Biopesticide: Biopesticides are derived from living organisms and their naturally-occurring metabolites suppress weeds, plant diseases and insect pests. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has invested in a National Biopesticide Programme for discovery and development of new biopesticide products for registration in Canada and worldwide.

Biopesticide products must be registered by Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to be sold and used in Manitoba. Examples of biopesticides to control weeds are Phoma macrostoma, Sclerotinia minor, etc. Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada has been conducting further research on biopesticides and published a document on biopesticides titled ['Biopesticides: Strategies for Discovery, Development, and Adoption'](#)

Contact Herbicide Products: Environmentally friendly contact herbicides containing acetic acid (vinegar), certain fatty acids (herbicidal soaps), ammonium soaps or salts of fatty acid, potassium salts of fatty acid, sodium chloride are registered by PMRA and available in the Canadian market.