

**2023 Weed Management Plan
For
Rural Municipality of Lac Pelletier No. 107**

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Weed Management Program will be to prevent the establishment of new Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs) and the containment and control of those that are now in the area. This is essential if the R. M. of Lac Pelletier No. 107 is to continue to use its land base to its fullest extent, whether it is for crop production, livestock production or recreation.

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

1. Legal land locations included in this plan are within the Rural Municipality of Lac Pelletier No. 107 boundaries.

2. General Description of the area:

- Included in the area are the Organized Hamlet of Darlings Beach, Lac Pelletier Regional Park, Lac Pelletier Lake, Great Western Railway (GWR) short line railway, highway #4, highway #43, and highway #343.
- The area is a mix of crop land and pasture land with some organic farms.
- The crop production areas have different weed management priorities than the pasture areas. Herbicides for crop production areas may require different chemicals than those for use in pastures.
- Traffic corridors also require extra surveillance to control weeds that may contaminate roadsides as they are a main route of spread. Monitoring of these corridors will be the responsibility of the Municipality and the Weed Inspector but Great Western Railway and the Ministry of Highways will be asked to assist with the costs of weed control on their rights-of-way.
- 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-ways.
- The Municipality inspects gravel pit sites annually. This is to prevent spread of weed seeds by limiting movement of contaminated gravel or contaminated mud that gets tracked on equipment. Preventing both arrival and spread of weeds is an important step in managing invasive weeds.
- Other sensitive areas within the boundaries include: Lac Pelletier Lake, ground water, Municipal lagoon, Public Utility (located at the Lac Pelletier Lake) and residential areas.

WEED MANAGEMENT HISTORY/BACKGROUND

The RM is a member of the District No. 9 Agricultural Development and Diversification Board and has also appointed a Weed Inspector to monitor the Municipality for prohibited and noxious weeds.

At present there is a fairly extensive leafy spurge control operation within the Municipality. It involves constant monitoring by the Weed Inspector and the use of the herbicide Tordon 22K, to give long term control. Leafy spurge, if not controlled, could, given time completely infest the pasture land in the Municipality. At present, no other weed has this potential, within this Municipality. A noxious weed that has been detected around the Lake and along the ditches and is becoming more common is Scentless Chamomile. It must be scouted for on a regular basis since it can aggressively take over pastures, grasslands and other agriculture areas. Also within our boundaries are very small infestations of yellow toadflax, Russian knapweed, and common tansy. These weeds can be controlled or eradicated with the use of the appropriate herbicides.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES IN THE AREA:

Weed species of concern in this area are prioritized as follows –

High Priority* – Leafy Spurge (more common)

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Medium Priority – Yellow Toadflax (isolated populations) - Common Tansy (isolated populations)
-Scentless Chamomile (isolated populations)

Other weeds to be monitored are:

- Salt Cedar (prohibited)
- Narrow Leaved Hawk’s Beard (noxious)
- Absinth (noxious)
- Field Bindweed (noxious)
- Japanese & Downy Brome (noxious)
- Canada Thistle (noxious)

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED CONTROL ACTIVITIES:

The RM cannot control the dispersal of natural agents but can promote the practice of farm weed control by advising ratepayers of the following:

- Use certified seed. Certified seed has a lower allowable tolerance for noxious weed seeds.
- Clean machinery and vehicles.
- Tarp grain loads to prevent seed spread.
- Cut weed infested crops prior to weed seed production.
- Plant competition or cropping practices used to suppress weeds.
- Clean fence lines and stockyards to prevent the spread by natural means.

All noxious weed sites are documented by the appointed Weed Inspector. All herbicide applications are conducted by the appointed Weed Inspector ensuring minimal risk impacting the environment, non-targeted plants, animals or fish.

Safe work procedures will be followed in accordance with The Occupational Health and Safety Act.

This plan and weed management actions taken will be reviewed on a yearly basis and updated or modified where required.

Proposed Budget for 2023 Invasive Plant Management Activities

Labour	\$ 1,000.00
Herbicides	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL Invasive Plant Control Budget	\$ 5,000.00

Weed Management Plan – 2023 updated and adopted by resolution of Council on June 13, 2023.

Reeve – Murray Spetz

Administrator – Sandra Krushelniski