

GE Alfalfa Policy

Subject: GE Alfalfa

Ref: ASB

Date Approved: May 11, 2021 Motion No.: 188/11/05/21 Replaces: 379/11/09/18

The County of Northern Lights

believes in protecting the environment and the local economy from the threat of GE Alfalfa and providing a GE Alfalfa free area for quality forage and seed production.

This policy is in response to the Invasive Species Bylaw No. 21-63-459 and will remain in effect until such a time when GE Alfalfa proves globally favorable and the socio-economic impacts are mitigated and well-understood.



Chief Elected Official



Chief Administrative Officer

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To administer, recognize, and minimize/eradicate the impacts caused by GE Alfalfa.
- 1.2 To bring education and awareness to businesses and residents within the County to minimize these impacts.
- 1.3 To be a leader as the County of Northern Lights in the identification and prevention of the establishment of GE Alfalfa within the County.
- 1.4 To provide proper, safe and effective control of GE Alfalfa.

2.0 COUNTY COMMITMENT

- 2.1 Provide direction, supervision and resources to the Agricultural Fieldman or other staff responsible for carrying out this policy and enforcing the Invasive Species Bylaw.
- 2.2 Maintain a fleet of equipment and staff to adequately inspect the County. The County will endeavour to employ a minimum of a full time equivalent Agricultural Fieldman and a minimum 2 summer staff to inspect the County and provide control measures.
- 2.3 Provide the necessary budget to carry out confirmation testing.
- 2.4 Implement a program to test a minimum of 10 fields selected at random for the presence of GE Alfalfa.

3.0 AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Act as the Inspector and carry out the required duties under the Invasive Species Bylaw.

- 3.2 Supervise, direct and be responsible for other Council appointed municipal Inspectors under the Invasive Species Bylaw.
- 3.3 Responsible for carrying out inspections per the Invasive Species Bylaw, and in accordance with section 542 of the Municipal Government Act.
- 3.4 Act as liaison between the County and ratepayers to coordinate control of confirmed GE Alfalfa infestations.
- 3.5 Determine the need for enforcement of any breaches of the Invasive Species Bylaw, and to issue or assist with issuing an order to remedy any contraventions of the bylaw pursuant to section 545 of the Municipal Government Act as set out below.
- 3.6 Obtain written request from ratepayers to carry out application and identify the locations to be sprayed. A suitable chemical will be used to provide proper, effective control.
- 3.7 Patrol the County inspecting for GE Alfalfa within County property and right of ways, industrial complex, fields, railways, rail yard, green zone, oilfield leases, water ways and other areas. Areas with known existing infestations and owners with negative history's will be prioritized.
- 3.8 Provide any other proper control measures, if time and budget permits.

4.0 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Any property containing GE Alfalfa will be identified, and appropriate action will be taken to immediately address the breach of the Invasive Species Bylaw.
- 4.2 The Owner of the Property (as defined in the Invasive Species Bylaw) will be notified of the presence of GE Alfalfa and offered recommendations for control. The Inspector may issue a written

warning with recommendations or may immediately issue an order to remedy pursuant to section 545 of the Municipal Government Act.

- 4.3 The Inspector may also determine whether to impose any fines or penalties pursuant to the Invasive Species Bylaw.
- 4.4 Any Order to Remedy issued to destroy GE Alfalfa will be directed by Council.