



POLICY

SECTION	CORPORATE
POLICY	1.12
SUBJECT	Integrated Pest Management Program Policy
ADOPTED	July 28, 2016

POLICY STATEMENT

The Powell River Regional District is aware of the challenges in controlling the spread of invasive vegetation and effectively controlling pests.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to limit, reduce, or eliminate altogether the use of chemicals whenever possible in controlling the spread of invasive vegetation or to effectively control pests.

A further purpose is to minimize or eliminate negative impacts on public health and the environment.

SCOPE

This policy will apply to all properties owned, operated or maintained by the Powell River Regional District.

POLICY/GUIDELINES

It is the Policy of the Powell River Regional District that vegetation and pest control is conducted through an Integrated Pest Management Program. The Program is a combination of cultural, biological, and chemical methods for the safest and most effective control of pests.

Use of Cultural and Biological control methods will have the highest priority for solving any pest problem. Chemical controls will only be used where other strategies are inadequate.

The use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes will not be permitted on any Powell River Regional District properties.

The following will be considered where chemical treatment is deemed necessary:

- Least hazardous to humans.
- Least toxic to non-target plants and insects.
- Least damaging to environment.
- Most likely to control the problem.
- Most cost effective.

The intent is to follow a series of steps, beginning with the least toxic method or product. If this fails you go to the next stronger means.

RESPONSIBILITY/AUTHORITY TO ACT

The Community Services Department has the responsibility and authority to act on this Policy through the oversight of the Manager of Community Services.

PROCEDURES

Definitions:

Biological Controls: Using predatory insects and natural bacteria to control pests.

Chemical Controls: Using any type of pesticide to control pests ie: herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, soaps, oils, and rodenticides.

Cultural Controls: Hand weeding, machine excavation, pruning, use of mulches to prevent weeds, ensuring proper drainage and irrigation, monitoring sites to ensure early prevention of problems.

Invasive Species: means highly competitive plants and animals which spread aggressively in to environments where they are not normally found and introduction does or is likely to cause harm to human health, the environment or the economy.

Natural Controls: Encouraging indigenous predators, and parasites.

Noxious Weeds: means plant species that are capable of inflicting agricultural loss or ill health on people, or are designated by regulation to be a noxious weed, and includes the seeds of noxious weeds.

Pesticide: means any substance designed to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate injurious, noxious, or troublesome living organisms. The term “pesticide” encompasses the more specific terms such as insecticides (for insects), herbicides (for plants), and fungicides (for fungal diseases)

Pests: Any unwanted or damaging plant, insect, fungus, or rodent.

Weed Control:

Weed prevention is the ultimate goal. This can be accomplished by keeping lawn or gardens properly watered, fertilized, and maintained.

Use of mulches will reduce weed growth, conserve water, and results in lower maintenance requirements.

Non-toxic options include physically or mechanically removing weeds.

A mixture of salt, soap and vinegar can be used for gravel, or asphalt areas. This mixture does not kill plant roots, so requires multiple applications.

Note: Salt is highly toxic to plants and is retained in soil for a long period of time.

If the above prove to be non-effective, chemical treatment may have to be considered.

Invasive Species:

The spread of invasive species (both plants and animals) has become a major concern for residents, ecologists, naturalists and land and water managers across BC. The spread of invasive species is second only to habitat loss as the major cause of declining biodiversity. The Powell River Regional District is committed to preventing new invasive species from becoming established and controlling those of major concern for human health and the health of natural ecosystems.

New Invasive Species that may warrant rapid response to contain their spread come to the Regional District's attention each year.

The eradication of invasive species in nearly all cases will require the use of herbicides.

Insects:

In most cases insects do not cause enough of a problem to warrant treatment. Exceptions may be wasps in areas used heavily by people, i.e., buildings, playgrounds, etc.

Rodent Control: (progressive steps)

Eliminate food source; ensure no access to buildings; get a cat; trap; chemical formulation; fumigant

Procedures for Pesticide Use:

1. Necessary provincial and/or federal permits for pesticides must be obtained.
2. Industry best-practices, and all federal and provincial standards and regulations shall be met with respect to the pesticide proposed for use, including transportation, storage, application, personnel safety, training and certification, public safety, and environmental protection.
3. Foliar or sprays of herbicide applications are generally discouraged. The preferred methods are stem injection, stem cut, basal bark, and hack and squirt treatments, or similar application methods.
4. Pesticide use will be undertaken to minimize potential environmental risks through use of the lowest effective toxicity, the smallest effective amounts, and the most conservative methods of application timed to optimize effects on the target species.
5. Extra caution **must** be exercised in riparian areas, waterways, and ecologically sensitive areas including the use of appropriate setbacks.