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**2024 WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**For the Rural Municipality of Viscount No. 341**  
**Resolution #2024-108**

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**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the Weed Management Program will be to control and contain invasive alien plants (IAPs) currently found in the RM of Viscount and to prevent the establishment of new IAPs. Invasive plants are detrimental in the RM by compromising whether that use be for crop production, livestock production, or recreation.

A plan to manage invasive weeds should take a holistic approach, coming from as many types of controls as possible. This plan will incorporate chemical (herbicides), mechanical, and educational components. There may also be a biological component in future years.

For maximum benefit with the available resources, the approach to controlling invasive weeds is to eradicate small patches of Prohibited Weeds as listed in the *Weed Control Act (2010)*. Small patches of Noxious Weeds should also be eradicated to prevent them from becoming larger patches. To prevent the spread of established patches, attack them at the boundaries firstly and use other control methods to weaken the remainder of the infestation.

Being proactive about the spread of invasive weeds is everyone's responsibility. Education and public awareness of what to do when a prohibited or noxious weed is spotted can go a long way to eradicating them or stopping their spread.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND AFFECTED BY THE PLAN:**

1. The boundaries of the area are the boundary of the Rural Municipality of Viscount #341, including the lands within the special services area of Plunkett.
2. General Description of the area:
  - Included in the area is the Village of Viscount. Highway #16 and a main Canadian Pacific Railway crosses through the RM.
  - The area is a mix of crop land, pasture land and recreational areas. Crop production, pasture land, and recreational areas each have different weed management priorities, and the herbicides and application rates of those herbicides may vary accordingly. There are some organic farms within the area.
  - Traffic corridors also require extra surveillance to control weeds that may contaminate roadsides as they are a main route of spread. These corridors will be the responsibility of the R.M. and the Weed Inspector but the CPR and the Department of Highways will be asked to assist with the costs of weed control on their rights-of-way. The Canadian Pacific Railway will also be approached about weed control along the tracks, as railway right-of-ways are a major route for the movement of invasive plant species.

## **WEED MANAGEMENT HISTORY/BACKGROUND:**

In the past, weed management in this area had focused on scentless chamomile. With the identification of Diffuse Knapweed in 2017, plans shifted to primarily focus on that prohibited weed. Wild Parsnip was identified in 2022; it was treated and will be closely monitored. In addition, efforts to control scentless chamomile were reduced, and attention shifted to controlling absinthe in 2018, and in 2019 a combination of absinthe and nodding thistle. Primary focus in 2019 through 2023 was absinthe and ensuring all gravel pits were treated.

The RM has been mapping weed areas and treatment since 2018.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES IN THE AREA:**

Weeds of priority in this area are:

### **High Priority-**

Absinthe  
Bladder Campion  
Common Tansy  
Diffuse Knapweed  
Leafy Spurge  
Scentless Chamomile  
Wild Parsnip

### **Medium Priority-**

Black Henbane	Common Burdock
Common Crupina	Dalmatian Toadflax
Field Bindweed	Field Scabious
Giant Foxtail	Halogeton
Hoary Cress	Hoary Alyssum
Oxeye Daisy	Perennial Pepperweed
Russian Knapweed	Spotted Knapweed
Wild Chervil	Yellow Star-Thistle
Yellow Toadflax	

The RM will continue to focus their efforts on addressing the Prohibited Weed, Diffuse Knapweed and Wild Parsnip, in the 2024 season. In addition, the council will work to deal with a new population of any type of weed within the municipality, as the weed inspector(s) may recommend.

Absinthe is rampant throughout the RM and a conscious effort to control the plant will be taken this summer. Common tansy, although not widespread throughout the RM, is common in neighbouring RMs and an effort will be made to control any small pioneer populations that find their way into the RM to keep the plant contained.

The medium priority weeds indicated are the remainder of the weeds on the Invasive Plant Control Program (CAP-IPCP) list of eligible weeds. Although these weeds are not found in significant amounts within the RM, they are weeds that should be focused on to control any existing populations and to prevent their establishment within the RM.

## **BUDGET**

The 2024 RM of Viscount's Budgeted amount for weed control, including mapping efforts, weed inspections and treatment (including chemical) has been set at \$23,000.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED CONTROL:**

All weeds identified above shall be sprayed using the appropriate herbicide and application rate as described in Schedule A of the Invasive Plant Control Program guidelines. All spots sprayed should be recorded and entered into the provincial database iMapInvasives.com in compliance with the Invasive Plant Control Program. Any Prohibited Weeds (as listed in the *Weed Control Act, 2010*) must be dealt with according to the Act. The practice of cleaning mowers before moving to new parts of the RM should continue, as this is an easy way to prevent spread of invasive species.

In order to prevent the introduction and establishment of new Prohibited or Noxious Weeds or other invasive plants, it is important for area residents to be able to identify species of immediate concern and report them to the Weed Inspector so that they may be eradicated quickly with the use of herbicides or hand pulling.

These sites must be documented, retained in a central file and closely monitored. In order to accomplish this, a public awareness program may be required. The municipality will use the internet record keeping database imapinvasives.org to document Prohibited and Noxious weed infestations and records of management activities including herbicide applications, biocontrol releases, manual efforts, tillage, etc.

All noxious weed sites that are presently documented with GPS must be monitored as to the effectiveness of the control measures that were taken. A record will be kept of each site, that includes information such as size, weed density, site topography, soil type and control measures used.

All herbicide application will be conducted by a licensed applicator using herbicides with the least risk of secondary impact to the environment and non-target plants, animals or fish.

Where required, permits will be acquired from Saskatchewan Environment to apply herbicides within 50 meters of water bodies.

Safe work procedures will be developed in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OH&S) for potentially dangerous activities conducted by the weed inspector and for herbicide applications conducted by municipal applicators or if sprayers are contracted, they must demonstrate that they have developed their own safe work procedures under OH&S.

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

Signed:

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Reeve

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Administrator