

Approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF MUNICIPAL WEED INSPECTOR TO THE COUNCIL FOR 2020

To the Municipal Council,

c/o: City of Saskatoon **Municipal Administrator/Clerk.**

Municipality of: Saskatoon No. # 344

Street Address: 1101 Ave. P North

City/Town: Saskatoon **Postal Code:** S7L 7K6

To the Councilors and Reeve,

- A. In making this annual report I Melissa McHale attach herewith the following documents concerning my work during the present season:
 - 1. Two copies of this report. (One copy for the municipal office and one to be sent to “Director of Crops and Irrigation Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Room 125, 3085 Albert St., Regina S4S 0B1”)
 - 2. Two copies of all **agreements** made and **orders** issued during the present season. (One copy for the municipal office and the other for the Director.)
- B. According to my weekly reports mailed regularly to your office during the present season you will note that I have been on duty for the number of days in each month as shown below.

NO. OF DAYS ON DUTY		NO. OF DAYS ON DUTY		NO. OF DAYS ON DUTY	
March	0	April	0	May	0
June	4	July	20	August	17
September	17	October	21	November	0

- C. I wish to make the following statement regarding general conditions observed, noxious weeds found, methods followed, and results obtained:

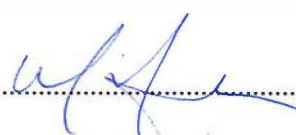
See Attached Annual Report

Further remarks (including suggestions for future work)

I hope to continue working together with the other departments at the City of Saskatoon, landowners, Meewasin Valley Authority and the R.M. of Corman Park #344 to control and eradicate noxious and nuisance weeds from our areas.

Yours truly,

(Signed) _____



Weed Inspector

Print Weed Inspector Name Melissa McHale

Address 1101 Ave P. North

Telephone (306) 290-1484

Dated 10/29/2020

(OVER)

Annual Report of the Weed Inspector for the City of Saskatoon – 2020

1101 Ave. P North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7L 7K6

I wish to make the following statements regarding general conditions observed, noxious weeds found, methods followed, and results obtained.

This year, UBS made 36 weed agreements with landowners and 26 of those were cleaned up and controlled by the owner. Seven of these were controlled by the City, two cases were forwarded to the Fire Department and one case was forwarded to City Roadways.

Five of the total agreements were escalated to order. Three of the orders were controlled by the landowners and two were controlled by the City and contracted out to complete the work. The cost for this work will be added to land parcel tax roll.

There were no prohibited weeds found this year in the City of Saskatoon. Inspectors were made aware of and did surveillance for the prohibited aquatic invasive weed, and flowering rush that has been observed moving into Saskatchewan along water bodies from Alberta.

Noxious weeds found in the city were kochia, sow thistle(s), absinthe, Canada thistle, oxeye daisy, scentless chamomile, nodding thistles, yellow toadflax, and common burdock. In larger open areas, such as dog parks and naturalized parks were found to have common tansy, baby's breath, and absinthe. The aquatic invasive weed, purple loosestrife was found around water bodies throughout the City. Small isolated patches of leafy spurge were found on the riverbank.

The nuisance weeds found on properties were Russian thistle, often found on many unkept yards and vacant lots. In the new builds and developing areas, there is an abundance of foxtail barley growth.

Controls were used and recommended based on location and type of weeds present.

The control for most noxious and nuisance weeds found on front yards, back yards, and vacant lots was to cut the weeds to prevent seed growth and dispersal. Common burdock was found along many backalley's and in backyards. The control used and recommended was to sever the plant at ground level with a shovel, bag and dispose of the plant and burs at the landfill.

It was used and recommended that the isolated infestation of the heartier noxious weeds, such as absinthe, common tansy, and yellow toadflax be spot treated with a herbicide, such as glyphosate or a Milestone/2, D tank mix.

The aquatic invasive, purple loosestrife found mostly in city surrounding water bodies was controlled with an integrated approach of mechanical treatments and use of native biological controls. Mature flowering plants stocks were cut off, bagged and disposed at the landfill. Movement of the purple loosestrife beetles were collected from sites with high beetle activity and moved to sites with little or no beetle activity. Previous years have shown an increase in beetle populations at sites where this has been done. Also, in previous years, wicking the plants with a 50% glyphosate mix have proven to be effective. Application for exemption for use of herbicides by water bodies next season would allow the addition of herbicide treatments for continued integrated controls.

There were small isolated infestations of leafy spurge found along the riverbank. They were chemically treated with the assistance of the Meewasin Valley Authority and hand pulled by UBS this year.

Foxtail barley has been a recurring problem in the newer developing areas, such as Evergreen, Brighton, and Aspen Ridge on the south side of the city and Kensington on the west end of the city. A letter has been drafted and will be sent out to the contractors/builders in these areas, informing them of this weed and the need to control it, as well as working with the Saskatoon Land Branch. The problem with this weed is that it flourishes on these vacant lots. Once the tillers heads develop, the seeds spread rapidly and the 'barbs' of the seeds can become lodged in the throats of dogs and cause harm.

Early eradication is recommended and cutting, or chemical controls should be used before the seed heads develop. Once the seed heads develop, cutting with a mower that catches or bags the seed heads would be best, since chemical treatments still leave standing dead barbs. Glyphosate treatments or Kerb SC (a selective herbicide used to control perennial grasses in agricultural land) is recommended. Seed viability of this perennial grass is between 2-7 years, so it will be a long-term project.

Communication with other departments responsible for parks and open spaces was well received and we are working with these departments to control noxious weeds on city land. Jeremy Probe who oversees the Dog Parks in the City and Moira Moser, the supervisor of the Naturalized parks was open to suggestions and offered advice on the current and future controls on noxious and nuisance weeds on City-owned land.

I look forward to working together with the other departments at the City of Saskatoon, landowners, Meewasin Valley Authority and the R.M. of Corman Park #344 to control and eradicate noxious and nuisance weeds from our areas.