

Approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF MUNICIPAL WEED INSPECTOR TO THE COUNCIL FOR 2021

To the Municipal Council,

do: City of Saskatoon **Municipal Administrator/Clerk.**

Municipality of: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan No. 344

Street Address: 222 3rd Ave. North

City/Town: Saskatoon **Postal Code:** S7K 0J5

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	18
June	20	July	19	August	16
September	16	October	18	November	0

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

See attached Word Document

Further remarks (including suggestions for future work)

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 to control and eradicate noxious and nuisance weeds from our areas.

Yours truly,

(Signed)



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Weed Inspector

Print Weed Inspector Name Melissa McHale

Address 1101 Ave. P North

Telephone 306-290-1484

Dated 10/28/2021

(OVER)

Annual Report of the Weed Inspector for the City of Saskatoon — 2021

1101 Ave. P North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7L 7K6

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

This year, UBS made 179 weed agreements with landowners and 162 of those were cleaned up and controlled by the owner. 96 of the total agreements were sent to order. 82 of the orders were controlled by the landowners and 14 were controlled by the city and contracted out to complete the work. The cost for this work is added to land parcel tax roll.

There were no prohibited weeds found this year in the City of Saskatoon. Two prohibited weeds on the radar are field scabious and flowering rush. Field scabious was found in the Birch Hills area of Saskatchewan and is believed to have come from flowers laid on a grave site. Flowering rush is an aquatic invasive that has been observed in the Watrous/Young area and the South Saskatchewan Lancer ferry crossing area.

Noxious weeds found in the city included kochia, absinthe, sow thistle(s), Canada thistle, nodding thistles, oxeye daisy, scentless chamomile, yellow toadflax, common burdock, baby's breath, European buckthorn, narrow leaved-hawks beard, dames rocket, round-leaved mallow and leafy spurge. Within larger open, city-owned areas, such as dog parks and naturalized parks, I identified common tansy, baby's breath, scentless chamomile, thistles and absinthe. Purple loosestrife was found around water bodies throughout the city. Small, isolated patches of leafy spurge were found on the riverbank and along CN rail spurs.

I identified the nuisance weeds Russian thistle, meadow goat's beard and foxtail barley. These are often found on many unkept yards and vacant lots. In the new building and developing areas, there is an abundance of foxtail barley growth.

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

Noxious and nuisance weeds found on front yards, back yards, and vacant lots were cut to prevent seed growth and dispersal. Common burdock was identified in back alleys and in backyards. The control method 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 herbicide such as glyphosate or a Milestone/2,D tank mix.

The aquatic invasive, purple loosestrife found mostly on 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 of at the landfill. Sites with high beetle activity were collected and moved to sites with little or no beetle activity. Historically, this has increased beetle populations at sites. Historically, wicking the plants with a 50% glyphosate mix has also proven to be effective. Application for exemption for use of herbicides would allow the addition of herbicide treatments for continued integrated controls.

There were small, isolated infestations of leafy spurge found along the north west riverbank. These infestations were hand pulled. Leafy spurge was found along CN rail spurs throughout the city. CN was informed, and they were chemically treated. This year, the entomologist and weed inspector attended a beetle collection day put on by SARM at Besant campgrounds located near Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Collection and releases of thousands of these beetles at a site has proven to be an effective means towards eradication of leafy spurge. The beetles were collected and released on the flood plains by the Chief Whitecap dog park with the assistance of the Meewasin Valley Authority and will be inspected next spring for effectiveness.

Foxtail barley has been a recurring problem in the newer developing areas such as Evergreen, Brighton, Rosewood and Aspen Ridge on the south side of the city and Kensington and Elk Point on the west end of the city. A foxtail Mitigation strategy and committee were put in place to mitigate the ongoing problem. This committee developed and released a pamphlet on foxtail barley and landowner responsibility as well as information on the city website and social media forums. This committee focused on working together with the Saskatoon Land Branch and various other departments to control foxtail problems on city land. The problem with this weed is that it flourishes on vacant lots. Once tillers heads develop, the seeds spread rapidly, and the 'barbs' of the seeds can become lodged in the throats of dogs and cause harm. The barbs can also end up on a person's clothing, garden vegetable, and front lawn(turf).

Early control is strongly recommended. Planting a cover crop on infested areas is an option. 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 within the City of Saskatoon responsible for parks and open spaces was well received. We are working with several departments to control noxious and nuisance weeds on city land.