

Council Policy – Weed and Pest Management

Responsible Directorate	Operations
Responsible Business Unit/s	Operations
Responsible Officer	Manager Operations
Affected Business Units	Operations, Engineering

Objective

The objective of this Policy is to provide direction in the management of pest and weed species, including the use of pesticides. The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (the Shire) takes an integrated weed and pest management approach towards controlling invasive weeds and other pests on land that is owned or managed by the Shire, including parks and sport fields, streetscapes, verges, pathways, and conservation areas. The Shire uses industry best practice, in addition to the adherence of all relevant legislation and guidelines to ensure responsibilities for environmental, legal, economic, public health and safety, and community are fulfilled.

Scope

This Policy applies to all Shire employees, as well as contractors and volunteers, who undertake work on behalf of the Shire, for the control of weeds and pests within property owned or managed by the Shire.

Policy

Integrated weed and pest management is important to ensure compliance with State legislation, community safety and environmental health. Under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act), Local Governments are responsible for weed control within their boundaries.

The Shire will ensure responsible management of weed and pest control and endeavour to reduce the use of pesticides by taking a proactive approach to trial sustainable alternatives to control weeds and pests, where feasible and within resource limitations and budgets.

The Shire uses a diverse range of techniques to control and prevent the spread of weeds and pests, including:

- mechanical – mowing, slashing, forestry mulcher and whipper snipping,
- physical /manual – hand weeding, weed matting, mulching, pruning,
- biological control – using beneficial insects or pathogens to control pests, livestock (goats/sheep) grazing,
- fire – controlled burning to limit or eradicate weed species,
- appropriate plant selection to smother weeds (e.g., ground covers),
- turf management practices,
- cleaning of machinery and equipment between sites to reduce spread,

- travel on designated pathways and tracks, to reduce spread,
- herbicide application in parks, garden beds, natural areas, road verges, kerb lines, pathways, drainage areas, fence lines, roundabouts, and median strips,
- pesticide application for pest animals, insects, nematodes, and plant pathogens,
- use of chemical free herbicides, and
- alternative methods – solarisation, steam, electric wand.

Other processes used to manage weeds and pests include:

- Pesticide use near schools, daycare centres or the like, scheduled to occur, where possible, outside of school hours, or during times where the number of people present is reduced. Signage is used at all locations where spraying occurs, to make the community aware of the works and that they can temporarily avoid the area if they wish.
- Consulting Safety Data Sheets (SDS) before using chemicals. The purpose of a SDS is to provide specific information related to the chemical or product, such as its identity, hazards, composition, safe handling, storage, disposal, and emergency procedures. SDSs are intended to inform and protect workers and the environment from any associated risks. The appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) can then be sourced and used as necessary.
- Using pesticide that are fit for purpose and applied in accordance with label directions and/or any provisions of a minor use permit issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). In addition to safeguarding that pesticides are applied in accordance with the Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011.
- Staying up to date with industry best practice, and networking with other stakeholders such as Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)'s Integrated Weed Management Working Group, Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups, Landscape Industry organisations, Greenlife Industry Australia, State Government Departments, Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group, and Regulatory Authorities.
- Ensure the Shire meets its legal responsibilities (including BAM Act, Local By-Laws, *Bush Fires Act 1954*, and *WA Public Health Act 2016*) to control unwanted weeds and pests within the Shire.
- Provide ongoing risk assessments and management while undertaking weed and pest control, to protect the health and environmental values of the community.
- Shire employees and contractors involved in the Shire's weed and pest management will have the appropriate training (including registered licences where required) to deliver effective, safe, and appropriate pest control.
- Provide weed and pest control awareness and education to residents. Liaise where necessary with volunteers, community groups and government agencies engaged in the control of invasive weeds and pests (such as Serpentine Jarrahdale Landcare Group and Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group).
- Weed Identification and Management Guidelines to be available to residents via the Shire's website. This document outlines common weeds of the area, including Declared Pest Plants and Weeds of National Significance, and what property owners can do to manage them on their properties.

Urban Properties – No Spray List

Residents can register their property to have their verge placed on the Shire's No-Spray List. By doing so, the property owner must commit to the management of weeds on and in front of their properties. The Shire's No-Spray list is renewed yearly as of 30 June. Property owners are required to re-register their interest annually via the Shire's website.

Rural Properties – Resident Managed Verge

Rural property owners can also apply to become solely responsible for the verge adjoining their property, undertaking all maintenance activities including weed removal and control. If the application is approved, the Shire will register the verge as a Resident Managed Verge. The Shire will erect yellow posts, with Managed Verge sticker, on either side of the property boundary allowing for identification by Shire officers and contractors.

Definitions

APVMA is the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

Integrated Weed and Pest Management is the coordinated use of a variety of methods for the prevention, control, and monitoring of pests.

NRM is the Natural Resource Management.

Pest is an animal, insect, pathogen, or disease that has an adverse impact on the surrounding natural environment and or human health.

Pesticide is an ingredient used to destroy unwanted plants, insects, or other organisms. Includes herbicide, fungicide, insecticides, algaecides, nematicides.

WALGA is the Western Australia Local Government Association.

Weed is a plant growing where it did not previously exist, and has an adverse impact on the surrounding environment, human health or amenity.

Related Documents

- Council Plan 2023-2033

Legislation / Local Law Requirements

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*
- *Pest Plants Local Law 1986*

Amendment Record

Relevant Delegations		Nil	
		Date	Resolution Number
Council Adoption		25/10/1999	E09
Version	Date	Resolution Number	Amendment Details
1	24/06/2002	SM077/06/02	
2	23/06/2003	SM057.2/06/03	
3	24/05/2004	SM047/05/04	
4	25/01/2010	OCM023.1/01/10	
5	26/03/2012	OCM101/03/12	
6	29/09/2015	OCM187/09/15	
7	18/12/2017	OCM179/12/17	
8			New template and formatting changes. Updated definitions and inclusion of Weed Identification and Management Guidelines information