

May 11, 2018

Weed control in some areas of Campbell River starts mid-May

Periodically, beginning in late spring/early summer, the City applies herbicide as needed to curbs and sidewalks, fence lines, sports fields, gravel walkways and other landscaped areas. This year, beginning May 16, weather permitting, targeted, direct spraying will begin in some areas.

Weed treatment will take place early in the morning to ensure the product has dried and is considered safe before most people and pets are out walking. Temporary signs are also placed in parks to notify people.

City employees are certified applicators and work following recognized best practices.

The herbicide will not be applied during rainy or windy conditions, so the schedule could change depending on the weather.

Areas to be treated include road edges along main routes, downtown and some of the most weed-infested routes in the community. Weeds will also be treated on sports fields, parks and possibly cemeteries.

In accordance with the City's integrated pest management policy, the City uses a number of methods to control weeds in parks, along roads and at the airport, which can include the application of commercially available pesticides when alternative methods are not viable.

A few species of noxious weeds such as knotweed and giant hogweed are also difficult to control by any other means, and, under the BC Weed Control act, the City is required to manage these.

"An outbreak of major weeds like plantain and dandelion on sports fields can destroy the turf, which would mean costly replacement if we didn't occasionally use this type of management to preserve the field. Along roadways, weeds accumulate in the seam between the curb and sidewalk. As they grow, die and decay, this builds up organic material, which, with the freeze-thaw cycle will eventually break out the curb – leading to costly repairs," explains Drew Hadfield, director of operations for the City.

"In areas where we do not use herbicide for weed control, we appreciate the help of property owners assisting the City's efforts to control weeds by scraping vegetation from curbs and sidewalks to slow their growth and the related build-up of organic material in the seams," Hadfield adds.

Under the City's nuisance bylaw, homeowners are not permitted to apply a pesticide or herbicide to any boulevard.

The City expects to apply herbicide twice this year in problem areas, and aims to reduce frequency of the herbicide application in future years.

More information is available at www.campbellriver.ca under Your City Hall / Green City/ Environmental Protection / Pesticide Awareness.

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