

**City of Edmonton Herbicide Ban
Questions and Answers
July 16, 2015**

At the June 23, 2015 Edmonton City Council meeting, Council approved a herbicide ban with exemptions on city-owned land.

Q: When does the ban go into effect?

A: The herbicide ban with exemptions is in effect now.

Q: Why are crews still spraying if herbicides have been banned?

A: There are exemptions that allow for the use of herbicides for certain purposes and in certain places.

Q: What are the exemptions?

A: Herbicides may be used in the maintenance of high-profile and high-quality parks and facilities including golf courses, bowling greens, staffed athletic facilities, premier sports fields, cemeteries and for areas or parks being used for high profile and international events.

Other approved herbicide uses are to treat hard surfaces, for infrastructure maintenance and safety to sewer pipes, storm water facilities, concrete and LRT lines, and to treat provincially-regulated weeds.

Q: What fields and parks fall under the exemption?

A: Work is underway to determine which city-owned sites are impacted by the ban.

Q: Why don't you ban herbicides completely?

A: There are practical needs for herbicide use in the maintenance of City infrastructure like sewer drains, storm water facilities and along LRT tracks. There is a need for herbicides in these cases to ensure the effective and safe running of City services. In addition, the City is required to manage provincially-regulated weeds. This can often only be done by applying herbicide. The aim of the ban is to curb the unnecessary use of herbicides and focus on their necessary uses.

Q: Will there be more weeds on City property?

A: This is a possibility, but the City is planning ways to compensate for a decrease in herbicide use. These methods include increased mowing, and improving turf quality by aerating, over seeding, fertilizing, irrigating, and dethatching. Healthier turf helps to control weeds.

Q: What will the cost be for the extra work required to maintain City land?

A: The cost is currently being determined by Administration and will be reported to Council in October 2015.

Q: Who do I complain to about the ban/about spraying?

A: You can call 311 with any comments or concerns.

Q: What if my neighbour is using herbicides?

A: The herbicide ban only applies to city-owned land.

Q: Where is spraying happening?

A: Citizens can call the Spray Line at 780-423-1378 to get daily updates and detailed information on any current spraying activities on City lands (April – October).

Q: How are herbicides in the City of Edmonton applied?

A: In situations where pesticide use is absolutely necessary, treatments are overseen by certified pesticide applicators who follow federal and provincial legislation. Beyond these legislations, the pesticide applicators also follow best the practices outlined in the City's Integrated Pest Management policy. Only products approved by Health Canada are used.