



**Policy No: TS-003**

## **Policy Title: Spraying to Prevent Regrowth**

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| <b><u>Policy Area:</u></b> Transportation Services                           | <b><u>Effective Date:</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b><u>Policy Section:</u></b> Spraying to Prevent Tree and/or Brush Regrowth | <b><u>Updated:</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b><u>Supersedes Policy:</u></b> #518/19 approved December 11, 2019          | <b><u>Approved on:</u></b> April 28, 2021<br><br><b><u>Resolution:</u></b> 226/21<br><br><b><u>Next Review Date:</u></b><br>This Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or earlier, in the event of major changes to legislation or related policies and procedures, or if deemed necessary by the Chief Administrative Officer and/or Operations Manager |

### **Policy Statement:**

The Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502 will use chemical spray on areas where mowing isn't possible, or where mulching has occurred in the previous year, in order to prevent tree and/or brush regrowth. The RM will ensure public notification is given in advance of spraying and that written consent is received, prior to any spraying being done, if the RM intends to spray outside the municipal ditch.

### **Purpose:**

Along with brushing and mowing, spraying herbicide is another tool that the RM uses to manage brush in municipal ditches. There are a number of reasons why brush and trees in municipal ditches and at intersections need to be managed. Clear sight lines at intersections assist the travelling public with unobstructed views of oncoming traffic and protects the visibility of warning signs. Brush and trees in municipal ditches can impede water flow resulting in improper drainage. Improper drainage can lead to standing water which, over time may undermine the subbase of the road and lead to failure. While mowing is an effective tool used to keep vegetation growth at a minimum, in some cases it isn't possible due to terrain, rocks or other hazards in the affected area, in these cases, spraying may be used.

**Definitions:**

Hazard: means any source of potential damage or harm to something.

Herbicide: an agent, usually chemical, for killing or inhibiting the growth of unwanted plants.

Municipal Ditch: means the area of municipal right of way owned or managed by the R.M. of Britannia No. 502, starting from the edge of the travelled road surface to the edge of the adjacent property line (which may or may not have a fence line). The primary purpose of this land is for drainage, snow storage, information signage and for roadside infrastructure (telecommunications and gas utility corridor).

RM: means the Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502

**Responsibilities:**

The Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Operations Manager, is responsible for maintaining and updating this policy

The Operations Manager is responsible for the following:

- ensuring that a qualified operator (employee or contractor) is hired, and that the operator has the appropriate pesticide applicator licence and abides by the RM's safety program.
- supplying the operator with a list of areas to be sprayed.
- updating this list on a yearly basis, taking into account any newly mulched areas which may require spraying due to terrain, rocks or other hazards.
- in each year, the Operations Manager will consult with the RM office to be updated on any submitted organic land documentation, and will take these lands into consideration when developing the current years spraying program.
- prior to spraying, obtaining written consent from the affected landowner, if the RM intends to spray outside the municipal ditch.
- will ensure that public notification is given in advance of spraying.
- monitoring the spraying operator.

**Policy:**

That the RM will hire an employee, or contract a spraying service, to use the appropriate herbicide to prevent tree regrowth, in areas where mowing is not possible.