



Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No. 0345, 2026

Effective Date: August 25, 2026

City of West Kelowna

Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No. 0345, 2026

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Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No. 0345, 2026

A bylaw to prevent the growth of noxious species including tall grasses and provide for the destruction of noxious weeds and the cutting of tall grasses.

WHEREAS the Council of the City of West Kelowna deems it expedient to enact a bylaw to regulate the protection and enhancement of the well-being of the community in relation to the natural environment, wildlife, agriculture, forestry, and property owners generally in the service area that such powers be exercised, and necessary and sufficient regulatory measures be enacted;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of West Kelowna enacts as follows:

Part 1 Citation

1.1 This bylaw may be cited as “Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No. 0345, 2026”.

Part 2 Severability

2.1 If a portion of this bylaw is held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of this bylaw is deemed to have been adopted without the severed section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or phrase.

Part 3 Definitions

3.1 In this bylaw:

“**Agent**” means a person, firm or corporation representing the owner of real property located within the service area.

“**Alien Plant**” includes any invasive plant which has been introduced from another region or country.

“**Chief Administrative Officer**” means the chief administrative officer for the City of West Kelowna.

“**City**” means the City of West Kelowna.

“**Developed Land**” means real property, which has been or is actively used for residential, agricultural, commercial, or industrial use, and includes a highway.

“Grass” includes all plants in the Gramineae family. For certainty all turf grass is included.

“Highway” includes street, road, lane, bridge, viaduct, and any other way open to public use, other than a private right of way on private property.

“Inspector” means the Bylaw Enforcement Officer, and any other person appointed or contracted to enforce or assist in the enforcement of this bylaw.

“Invasive” means any plant or tree which has the potential to pose negative or detrimental impacts on humans, animals, or ecosystems. For certainty any native plants listed on Schedule A, attached to, and forming part of this bylaw are considered invasive.

“Mulch” means to spread on the ground in a manner intended to keep all cut plant materials on the real property they originated from.

“Native Plant Species” means any plant indigenous to Southern Interior British Columbia forests, grasslands, or wetlands, as recognized by the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, the British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, or the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, as non-invasive.

“Natural Landscaping” means the practice of ecologically sensitive landscaping that uses native plant species of Southern Interior British Columbia to create specialized and self-sustaining landscaping with minimal resort to artificial methods of plant care such as chemical fertilizers, watering other than natural precipitation, and mowing.

“Noxious Weeds” includes all plants defined in Schedule A, attached to, and forming part of this bylaw, and shall include Alien Plants.

“Occupier” means a person who is qualified to maintain an action for trespass, or who simply occupies the land.

“Owner” means, in respect of real property;

- i) The registered owner of an estate in fee simple,
- ii) The tenant for life under a registered life estate, or
- iii) The registered holder of the last registered agreement for sale.

“Real Property” means land, with or without improvements so affixed to the land as to make them in fact and law a part of it.

Part 4 Regulation

- 4.1 All owners and occupiers of real property situate within the City, or their agents, between April 1 and September 30 of any year, shall:
 - 4.1.1 Prevent the growth of noxious weeds on the real property from exceeding growth above ground of 20.32 centimeters (8 inches).
 - 4.1.2 Prevent the growth of grasses on the Real property from exceeding growth above ground of 20.32 centimeters (8 inches).
- 4.2 All owners and occupiers of real property situated within the City, or their agents, between April 1 and September 30 of any year, shall:
 - 4.2.1 Cut down or otherwise destroy and mulch or remove all noxious weeds growing thereon so often in each year as is necessary to prevent their growth above the ground from exceeding 20.32 centimeters (8 inches).
 - 4.2.2 Cut down or otherwise destroy and mulch or remove all grasses growing thereon so often in each year as is necessary to prevent their growth above the ground from exceeding 20.32 centimeters (8 inches).

Part 5 Enforcement

- 5.1 The City may, at any time, or from time to time appoint an inspector or inspectors for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of the bylaw and such inspector or inspectors shall be known as the City of West Kelowna Noxious Weed Control Inspectors hereinafter referred to as the Inspector.
- 5.2 Any Inspector appointed pursuant to Part 5.1 may enter all at reasonable times upon any real property subject to the regulations of this bylaw in order to ascertain whether the regulations of this bylaw are being obeyed.
 - (a) Where the Inspector determines that any real property contains noxious weeds or grasses contrary to the provisions of Part 4.2 of this bylaw, the Inspector may issue a notice in writing to the owner, occupier or agent of such condition and require the owner, occupier or agent of such real property to comply with the provisions of Part 4.2 of this bylaw withing ten (10) days from the date of such notice. Written notice that is dated on or before September 30 may be re-inspected up to October 31 in that year.
 - (b) Notwithstanding Part 5.3 (a), if the real property is undeveloped land, as determined by the Inspector, and is over two (2) acres in size, bordering or is adjacent to developed land, the inspector may only require the owner, occupier, or agent of the real property to cut or remove the offending Noxious Weeds or Grasses from a 9-15 (30-50 feet) buffer adjacent to the developed land.

(c) With Respect to Tree of Heaven, Russian Olive, and Siberian Elm, control of these invasive species should be done following best practices as laid out by the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia.

5.3 Any written notice issued pursuant to Part 5.3 of this bylaw shall be deemed to be validly issued if delivered personally or mailed by registered or regular mail to the owner, occupier, or agent of the real property. Written notice shall be in care of the ordinary postal address for such real property, or to the agent's ordinary postal address.

5.4 (a) Where after expiry of ten (10) days from the date of notice given pursuant to Part 5.3 (a), the owner, occupier, or agent has failed to comply with the requirements of the written notice it shall be lawful for the City, by its employees or other persons, to enter upon such real property and carry out the work required to be carried out pursuant to the written notice at the expense of the person so defaulting. Where written notice is dated on or before September 30, the work may be carried out up to October 31 in that year.

Work done by the City will only include herbicide treatment where the Invasive Species Council or British Columbia has indicated pesticide use as a best management practice. Charges incurred by the City shall include a \$100.00 surcharge, inspection fee and the 15% administration fee. All fees incurred by the City, if unpaid on the 31 day of December in any year, shall be added to and form part of the taxes payable in respect of such real property as taxes in arrears.

(b) No person shall obstruct an inspector or other authorized representative of the City acting pursuant to this bylaw.

Part 6 Exemptions

6.1 This bylaw does not apply to normal farm practices on farm operations in accordance with the *Farm Practices Protection Act*.

6.2 This bylaw does not apply to continual slopes having an approximate grade of 45 degrees or steeper, with a slope length of 5 metres (16.4 feet) or more. The continual slope may include more than one registered title of property.

6.3 The Inspector is authorized to consult with owners, occupiers, or agents of real property concerning complaints about Noxious Weeds where the degree of a slope allows for exception of requirements for weed control.

6.4 An owner, occupier, or agent that has been issued written notification pursuant to Part 5.3 of this bylaw and believed that the real property is natural landscaping, as defined in Part 3 of this bylaw, may request that the real property be reviewed by the Inspector. A request for review must be received by the Inspector within the time period for compliance specified in the notice.

Part 7 General Provisions

7.1 Every person who:

- (a) Violates any of the provisions of this bylaw;
- (b) Causes, suffers, or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of in violation of any of the provisions of this bylaw;
- (c) neglects or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any of the provisions of this bylaw; or
- (d) Fails to comply with any order, direction or notice given under this bylaw;

shall be deemed to be guilty upon summary conviction of an infraction of this bylaw and shall be liable to a fine and penalty as outlined in the *Local Government Act*.

Part 8 Offence and Penalty

8.1 Every person who violates a provision of this bylaw, or who consents, allows or permits an act or thing to be done in violation of a provision of this bylaw, or who neglects to or refrains from doing anything required to be done by a provision of this bylaw, is guilty of an offence and is liable to the penalties imposed under this bylaw, and is guilty of a separate offence each day that a violation continues to exist.

8.2 Every person who commits an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine or to imprisonment, or to both a fine and imprisonment, not exceeding the maximum allowed by the *Offence Act*.

Schedules

Schedule A – Noxious Weeds

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2026

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2026

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2026

ADOPTED THIS 25TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2026

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER

Schedule A

Noxious Weeds

Weed Name	Latin Name
African Rue	Peganum harmala
Annual Sow Thistle	Sonchus oleraceus
Baby's Breath	Gypsophila paniculata
Bachelor's Buttons	Centaurea cyanus
Barnyard Grass	Echinochloa crusgalli
Black Henbane	Hyoscyamus niger
Black Locust	Robinia pseudoacacia
Black Knapweed	Centaurea nigra
Blueweed	Echium vulgare
Blue Mustard	Chorispora tenella
Bohemian Knotweed	Fallopia × bohemica
Brazilian Elodea / Waterweed	Egeria densa
Broom, French	Genista monspessulana
Broom, Portuguese	Cytisus striatus
Bull Thistle	Cirsium vulgare
Bur Chervil	Anthriscus caucalis
Burdock	Arctium spp.
Butterfly Bush	Buddleja davidii
Camelthorn	Alhagi maurorum
Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense
Carpet Burweed	Soliva sessilis
Celandine, Greater	Chelidonium majus
Celandine, Lesser	Ranunculus ficaria
Cheatgrass	Bromus tectorum
Chicory	Chicorium intybus
Clary Sage	Salvia sclarea

Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Common Bugloss	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>
Common Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>
Common Crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>
Common Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Common Mallow	<i>Malva neglecta</i>
Common Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Common Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
Common Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Cordgrass, Dense-flower	<i>Spartina densiflora</i>
Cordgrass, English	<i>Spartina anglica</i>
Cordgrass, Salt Meadow	<i>Spartina patens</i>
Cordgrass, Smooth	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>
Corn Spurry	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Cudweed	<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Curly-cup Gumweed	<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i>
Cypress Spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>
Dalmatian Toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>
Diffuse Knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
Dodder	<i>Cuscuta</i> spp.
Dyer's Woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>
Egg-leaf Spurge	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>
English Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Eurasian Watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
European Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i> subsp. <i>australis</i>
European Waterlily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>

Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Flixweed	<i>Descurainia sophia</i>
Flowering Rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Foxtail Barley	<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>
Fragrant Waterlily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
Giant Mannagrass / Reed Sweetgrass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Goatsrue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>
Goldmoss Stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Green Foxtail	<i>Setaria viridis</i>
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
Hairy Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
Halogeton / Saltlover	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>
Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>
Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
Himalayan Blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>
Himalayan Knotweed	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>
Hoary Alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria</i> spp.
Hound's-tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Iberian Starthistle	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>
Italian Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>
Japanese Butterbur	<i>Petasites japonica</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Jointed Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>

Knotweed (Japanese, Giant & Bohemian)	Fallopia/Reynoutria & Polygonum spp
Kochia	Kochia scoparia
Kudzu	Pueraria montana var. lobata
Lady's Thumb/Pale Smartweed	Polygonum spp
Leafy Spurge	Euphorbia esula
Longspine Sandbur	Cenchrus longispinus
Maltese Star Thistle	Centaurea melitensis
Marsh Plume Thistle	Cirsium palustre
Meadow Clary	Salvia pratensis
Meadow Hawkweed	Hieracium pratense
Meadow Knapweed	Centaurea pratensis
Mediterranean Sage	Salvia aethiopis
Medusahead	Taeniatherum caput-medusae
Milk Thistle	Silybum marianum
Mountain Bluet	Centaurea montana
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Hieracium pilosella
Mullein	Verbascum thapsus
Myrtle Spurge	Euphorbia myrsinites
Night-flowering Catchfly	Silene noctiflora
Nightshade	Solanum spp.
Nodding(Musk) Thistle	Carduus nutans
North Africa Grass	Ventenata dubia
Orange Hawkweed	Pilosella aurantiaca
Oxeye Daisy	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
Perennial Pepperweed	Lepidium latifolium
Perennial Sow Thistle	Sonchus arvensis
Plumeless Thistle	Carduus acanthoides
Poison Hemlock	Conium maculatum
Prickly Lettuce	Lactuca serriola
Princess Tree	Paulownia tomentosa

Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
Purple Deadnettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Purple Nutsedge	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>
Purple Starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>
Quackgrass	<i>Agropyron repens</i>
Queen Anne's Lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites serotina</i>
Redroot Pigweed	<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>
Rush Skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
Russian Knapweed	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Russian Thistle	<i>Salsola kali</i>
Salsify	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>
Scentless Chamomile	<i>Matricaria maritima</i>
Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Scotch Thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
Sheep Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Shepherd's-purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>
Shiny Geranium	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>
Silverleaf Nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>
Slender/Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>
Slender False-Brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
Slenderflower Thistle	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>
Smallflower Touch-me-not	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>
Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>
Spring Milletgrass	<i>Milium vernale</i>
Spurge Flax	<i>Thymelaea passerina</i>
Spurge Laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>

Squarrose Knapweed	<i>Centaurea virgata</i> subsp. <i>squarrosa</i>
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Sulphur Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
Sweet Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Syrian Bean-caper	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>
Tamarisk / Salt Cedar	<i>Tamarix</i> spp.
Tansy Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Tartary Buckwheat	<i>Fagopyrum tataricum</i>
Tarweed	<i>Madia</i> spp.
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Texas Blueweed	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Velvetleaf	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>
Water Hemlock	<i>Cicuta douglasii</i>
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>
Water Lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>
Water Soldier	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>
White Cockle	<i>Lychnis alba</i>
Whiplash Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium flagellare</i>
Wild Buckwheat	<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>
Wild Caraway	<i>Carum carvi</i>
Wild Chervil	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Wild Four O'Clock	<i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i>
Wild Mustard	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>
Wild Oats	<i>Avena fatua</i>
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Wild Proso Millet	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>
White-flowered Broom	<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>
Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>
Yellow Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>

Yellow Floating Heart	Nymphoides peltata
Yellow Hawkweed	Hieracium spp.
Yellow Loosestrife	Lysimachia vulgaris
Yellow Nutsedge	Cyperus esculentus
Yellow Starthistle	Centaurea solstitialis