

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

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Invasive Plant Control Program Program Guidelines

2024-2025

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)



PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Invasive Plant Control Program is to provide financial assistance to rural municipalities (RMs), First Nations south of the Northern Administrative District and other stakeholders through their respective RMs and First Nations, with costs to undertake and coordinate the control of prohibited weeds, as well as specific noxious weeds that are persistent and problematic.

Crown Land Pasture Associations are not eligible under the Invasive Plant Control Program. Please refer to "[Crown Land Pasture Association Invasive Weed Program](#)" for assistance.

BACKGROUND

Early Detection and Rapid Response is the first line of defense to identify, assess and respond to invasive plant species. The Invasive Plant Control Program is focused on all prohibited weeds and a limited number of noxious weeds of high concern designated under *The Weed Control Act* that aren't currently widespread. This funding has a significant impact leading to visible results and decreased infested acres and spread. Invasive Plant Control Program funding also helps to increase and protect productive grazing areas for livestock, wildlife and cropping and thus the economic or ecological potential of those lands. The reclamation of infested land and the prevention of spread to more land through targeted invasive weed management efforts ensures RMs, First Nations and private stakeholders receive the best benefit of the program.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

SARM administers the Invasive Plant Control Program on behalf of the Province of Saskatchewan. Funding is provided through the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Government under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) agreement. The Invasive Plant Control Program is designed to achieve maximum results and accountability, while keeping administrative requirements for RMs and First Nations south of the Northern Administrative District to a minimum. The cost-share funding for this program year (April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025) is in the amount of \$856,000.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The Invasive Plant Control Program will provide a rebate towards the following expenses:

- A. **Herbicide rebates:** All costs to control any prohibited weeds designated under *The Weed Control Act*, as well as rebates toward eligible herbicides used to control designated noxious weeds designated under *The Weed Control Act*. See the *2024 Appendix A* for a list of eligible weed species and pre-approved herbicides for this program year.
- B. **Monitoring and Other Expenses:** RMs and First Nations can claim for RM appointed or First Nation authorized Weed Inspector expenses related to **prohibited and noxious weed monitoring** in their jurisdictions.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND MAKING A CLAIM

A. HERBICIDE REBATES

- RMs must have an appointed Weed Inspector acknowledged by Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture for 2024 for any applicants to claim through the Invasive Plant Control Program.
- First Nations must authorize an individual as Weed Inspector for 2024 to act as the enforcement agent for any applicants to claim through the Invasive Plant Control Program.
- RMs, First Nations and other applicants through their respective RMs and First Nations, as part of an approved Weed Management Plan, will be eligible to claim under the 2024-25 Invasive Plant Control Program:
 - For **all weeds designated as prohibited weeds** under *The Weed Control Act*:
 - 50 per cent of the cost of pre-approved eligible herbicides and required adjuvants/surfactants as shown in *Appendix A*, or where eligible herbicides are not listed for the prohibited weed of interest, the herbicide indicated by the Provincial Specialist for Weed Control (see rules regarding Prohibited weeds below) (less any taxes).
 - **Note:** *verified invoices and herbicide application records are required; and*
 - 50 per cent of the cost of application of those pre-approved eligible herbicides by a licensed applicator (*with verified invoices*).
 - **Note:** *Agriculture producers applying herbicides on their own land are exempt from requiring a pesticide applicator license if applying to their own land (owned or rented).*
 - For **noxious weeds approved** under the current program *see Appendix A*:
 - Up to 50 per cent of the cost of pre-approved eligible herbicides and required adjuvants/surfactants applied as shown on *Appendix A* (less any taxes). (*With verified invoices and herbicide application records*).

Rules For Herbicides Rebates

1. RMs must appoint and First Nations must authorize an individual as Weed Inspector as per *The Weed Control Act* before incurring any expenses eligible under this program.
2. Only eligible herbicides (Appendix A) and application rates determined on each product label will be deemed acceptable for rebate under the Invasive Plant Control Program. *Herbicide applications made contrary to the eligible herbicides in Appendix A and rates not applied according to the product label **will not** be funded. Always read and follow herbicide labels.*
3. **Prohibited Weeds** – *Prohibited Weeds* are either not currently in Saskatchewan or are only recently introduced and very rare. For this reason, prohibited weeds may not have herbicide control options registered in Canada yet. **Herbicide applicators (including producers or other applicants) must, under the supervision of the weed inspector, apply only eligible herbicide options listed in the current Invasive Plant Control Program Appendix A to Prohibited Weed species.** If a herbicide option is not listed in Appendix A for use on a specific Prohibited Weed species of interest, the

applicator **MUST CONSULT** with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Provincial Specialist for Weed Control for possible options registered or recommended in other jurisdictions that may be adaptable to Saskatchewan. Failure to consult with the provincial specialist before applying an ineligible herbicide will risk the claim being ineligible for rebate.

NOTE: applicants will be required to submit a copy of the email sent by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture provincial specialist for weed control as confirmation of consultation on prohibited weeds and recommendation of the alternative herbicide used.

4. Claims reviewed under the Invasive Plant Control Program will be granted an allowable percentage variance of **up to 10 per cent higher** than the application rates according to label. In this case, only the rate published on the label will be rebated. Any rates above the 10 per cent variance will be deemed ineligible due to negative environmental impact.
5. **Adjuvants/surfactants**, must be used when required by the product label, and are an allowable expense if:
 - On a separate line on the claim form; and
 - In the Herbicide Application Records; and
 - On an invoice attached; or
 - Represented on the invoice (at no cost) when included with the cost of the herbicide.
6. **Freight Costs** (less any taxes) for Prohibited and Noxious weed species: the cost of freight on original invoices listed above relative to the herbicide/service used in this program year; proportional to the amount used (i.e., when calculating the price per unit of herbicide, add cost of freight and then divide by the total volume of herbicide shipped).
7. **Other Applicants eligible to claim through RM and First Nations include:**
 - Agricultural Producers.
 - Private landowners (includes individual renters of rural reserve lands and provincial crown lands (lands under lease to individual farmers, grazing co-ops and ranchers).
 - Cities/Towns/Villages/Municipal Districts (eligible to claim for prohibited weeds only).
 - Other applicants' claims must be submitted to the RM or First Nation office for the Administrator or First Nation Land Manager to sign and submit to SARM. Eligible rebate payments for other applicants will flow back through the RM or First Nation office they were claimed through.
 - Other applicants claiming through their RM or Band office must complete and sign claim forms for each weed species they are claiming.

Making a Claim - Herbicide Rebates (Deadline: October 31, 2024)

Submit claim by the above deadline by email to Annette Ellert, Agriculture Program Administrator at aellert@sarm.ca.

1. Claim Forms: one for each weed species (Noxious and/or Prohibited) being claimed.
2. Copy of Herbicide Application Records for each claim form.
3. Copy of invoices for the purchase of pre-approved herbicides used in this program year.
 - a. *See Appendix A for pre-approved eligible herbicides.*
4. Copy of Weed Management Plan *required by RMs and First Nations only*. Contact your Plant Health Technical Advisor for assistance in creating or updating Weed Management Plans.
 - a. *Sample Weed Management Plan and template are available on [the Invasive Plant Control Program website](#).*
5. Copy of current Cooperative Weed Management Area agreement (*if applicable*).
6. *For Prohibited Weeds only*: A copy of an email from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Weed Control Specialists supporting the use of an herbicide not listed in the Invasive Plant Control Program *Appendix A* for the control of that prohibited weed where applicable.

B. MONITORING AND OTHER EXPENSES

RMs and First Nations will be eligible to claim under the Invasive Plant Control Program, RM appointed or First Nation authorized Weed Inspector expenses related to monitoring for weeds designated as prohibited weeds and noxious weeds under *The Weed Control Act*.

Approved expenses related to prohibited and noxious weeds include: contract fees, wages, travel expenses, mileage (e.g., monitoring, training events), training, supplies deemed necessary (e.g., shipping weed samples for identification to the Crop Protection Lab, PPE), development of weed management plan, development of educational materials for ratepayers, data entry into iMapInvasives, etc. *Federal and provincial taxes and licensing fees are not eligible expenses to claim.*

Not eligible: Weed Inspector costs directly related to enforcement measures taken in accordance with *The Weed Control Act* in response to the discovery of regulated weeds.

It is **highly** recommended Weed Inspectors attend a “Weed Inspector Training Clinic” organized by SARM and Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to gain knowledge on weed identification.

Rules For Monitoring and Other Expenses:

1. RMs must appoint and First Nations must authorize an individual as Weed Inspector as per *The Weed Control Act* before incurring any expenses eligible under this program from January 1, 2024, to October 31, 2024).
2. To be eligible to receive a claim for monitoring expenses:
Weed Inspectors to enter findings into iMap invasives [Login \(naturereserve.org\)](https://naturereserve.org)
 - o RMs may contract the services of a third party to enter current and/or historic data into iMapInvasives.

Making a Claim - Monitoring and Other Expenses (Deadline October 31, 2024)

Submit claim by the above deadline by email to Annette Ellert, Agriculture Program Administrator at aellert@sarm.ca.

1. Weed Inspector Expense Claim Form.
2. Invoices to verify 2024 RM appointed or First Nation authorized Weed Inspector expenses eligible to be claimed.

If the deadline to submit a claim form falls on a statutory holiday or weekend, the deadline would move to the next business day.

No other government grant, rebate, assistance program or payment can be received by the RM, First Nation or other applicants with relation to the expenditures subject to this program. Verification of fulfillment of program requirements may be requested, random audits may be conducted and information on specific reporting measures may also be requested.

Reminder: The Weed Inspector must submit an annual report as per Section 13 of *The Weed Control Act* and a copy of the report must be submitted by the RM administrator to the Executive Director of Crops and Irrigation Branch, Ministry of Agriculture. (See [Weed Inspectors in Saskatchewan](#) for more information).

PROGRAM CLAIMS RATING

Claims will be processed according to weed species indicated on the Invasive Plant Control Program Appendix A. To ensure rebates are distributed in a fair and equitable manner, the Invasive Plant Control Program Technical Committee will determine eligible rebate amounts based on the following:

- **1st priority -Herbicide Applications to Prohibited Weeds:**
 - 50 per cent of the cost of pre-approved eligible herbicides; and
 - 50 per cent of the cost of application of those pre-approved eligible herbicides.
- **2nd priority:**
 - 50 per cent of the cost of pre-approved eligible herbicides for the control of eligible noxious weeds.
 - 50 per cent of the cost of eligible Weed Inspector expenses incurred in the monitoring for all regulated weeds.

If program becomes oversubscribe, all eligible rebate requests made on approved noxious claims and eligible weed inspector expenses will be prorated based on the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{eligible rebate request per RM/First Nation/other stakeholder}}{\text{total IPCP rebate request of all claimants}} \times \text{Invasive Plant Control Program rebate funds available (after claims are paid for prohibited weeds)}$$

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- **Plant Health Technical Advisors**

The Plant Health Technical Advisors provide direct support, education, training to rural municipalities (RM), and their municipally appointed officers, as well as First Nations on how best to manage the agricultural crop pests as per *The Plant Health Act* and prohibited and noxious weeds as per *The Weed Control Act*.

If you require assistance or more information on the Invasive Plant Control Program, please contact the Plant Health Technical Advisor located in your SARM Division:

- Division 1: Yemi Adeyemo, AAg, 639-470-6394, PHNdivision1@sarm.ca
- Division 2: Joanne Kwasnicki, PAg, 306-541-8437, PHNdivision2@sarm.ca
- Division 3: Betty Johnson, AAg 306-315-3925, PHNdivision3@sarm.ca
- Division 4: Katey Makohoniuk, TechAg, 306-594-7683, PHNdivision4@sarm.ca
- Division 5: Chelsea Neuberger, AAg, 306-380-4526, PHNdivision5@sarm.ca
- Division 6: Colleen Fennig, PAg, 306-946-9895, PHNdivision6@sarm.ca

- **Visit the [SARM website](#) to download:**

- Program Guidelines
- Appendix A
- Noxious Weed Claim Form
- Prohibited Weed Claim Form
- Herbicide Application Record Form
- Weed Inspector Expense Form

- **More information**

- For control options for Prohibited Weeds or assistance in confirming identification, please contact Cory Jacob, Provincial Specialist for Weed Control at 306-787-4673 or email at cory.jacob@gov.sk.ca.
- For information on the use of eligible herbicides, see the [Guide to Crop Protection](#) at www.saskatchewan.ca or refer to the PMRA label database <https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php>.
- For Crown Land Pasture Associations information, please visit "[Crown Land Pasture Association Invasive Weed Program](#)."
- Visit the SARM website at www.sarm.ca or contact Annette Ellert, Agriculture Program Administrator, at 306-761-3744 or email at aellert@sarm.ca.

As part of the Sustainable CAP funding agreement, all records, information, databases, audit and evaluation reports and other documents relating to this program must be retained by the RM, First Nation, or Stakeholder until March 31, 2034.