



# Regional Board Report

## Request for Decision

**To:** Regional Board  
**From:** Manager of Protective Services  
**Date:** March 28, 2024

**Subject:** New – Noxious Weed Control Bylaw and Noxious Pest and Insect Control Bylaw

**Voting Entitlement:** *Stakeholder Weighted Vote - Electoral Area Directors & Kelowna & Peachland & Lake Country - Majority (LGA s.209)*  
*Bylaw adoption requires 2/3 majority (LGA s.228)*

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**Purpose:** To consider the repeal and replacement of Regional District of Central Okanagan Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No. 179 and the Noxious Insect and Pest Infestation Control Bylaw No. 879.

### Executive Summary:

The Province of British Columbia and City of Kelowna amended the Tree Protection Bylaw No. 8041 on October 3, 2022, to create exemptions from the provision of the bylaw for the removal of invasive trees. The following definition was added; “invasive tree” means Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*), Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) and Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) in addition to any other species identified by the Provincial invasive species authority.

To add Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) as an Invasive Tree and the statement “in addition to any other species identified by the Provincial invasive species authority” to the Noxious Weed Control Bylaw. Further to add Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) as a pre-emptive measure to the Noxious Insect and Pest Infestation Control Bylaw.

Repealing and replacing the Regional District of Central Okanagan Noxious Weeds Bylaw and Noxious Insect and Pest Control Bylaw will align with our vision to strengthen the broader community.

### Recommendation 1:

**THAT** Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No. 1544 be given first, second and third reading;  
**AND THAT** Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No. 1544 be adopted.

**THAT** Noxious Pest and Insect Control Bylaw No. 1545 be given first, second and third reading;  
**AND THAT** Noxious Pest and Insect Control Bylaw No. 1545 be adopted.

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Report Approved by:

David Gazley, Manager of Protective Services

Approved for Agenda:

Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

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### Strategic Plan Alignment:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness         | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation        | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only       |

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**Background:**

The City of Kelowna recently added three aggressively fast-growing deciduous trees to the Tree Protection Bylaw that have become an issue in the Regional District of Central Okanagan. They all have traits that enable them to pose risks to our environment. The Tree of Heaven, Siberian Elm and the Russian Olive are three trees that require attention for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. The Tree of Heaven reproduces aggressively through vegetative shoots that can grow through asphalt roads, sidewalks, concrete foundations, sewer systems and can reach 30 metres in height. The Russian Olive is an invasive tree that can survive dry conditions and cold temperatures and will outgrow and crowd out our native species. The Siberian Elm is a larger tree that will grow up to 18 metres tall. Its seed germination rate is very high, and seedlings will quickly establish along roadsides, grasslands and along waterways.

These invasive trees were brought in from Eurasia, they spread rapidly, releasing toxic chemicals into the soil to deter other plant species. They all produce by seed, by division and can sprout nearly anywhere. They are tolerant to a wide range of environmental conditions and have no disease problems.

The Tree of Heaven, however, is the preferred host for an invasive species that has not yet arrived in BC. The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), native to China, is on the radar for the Invasive Council of BC. This large black and red spotted insect has established itself in over 11 states in the USA and at least 2 states bordering Canada. In April of 2023, it was reported that the spotted lanternfly was found near the Ontario Niagara wine-growing region but has not yet jumped the border. The spotted lanternfly was added to the list of Pests Regulated by Canada in 2018 under the plant protection act, to prevent the invasion of this destructive insect across our border, with policy directives for importing plants and importing or moving firewood.

The insects are most often found on or near the Tree of Heaven; its favourite place to lay and hatch its eggs. A multi-agency task force in Ontario is recommending the physical removal of the Tree of Heaven. For infested vineyards in Pennsylvania, it is recommended killing any nearby Tree of Heaven using herbicide, using insecticide treatments for the bugs themselves and installing netting around the vines.

These extremely hazardous pests cause widespread damage by feeding on plant sap and travelling between host plants such as grapes, apple, and other stone fruit trees. If the spotted lanternfly finds its way to BC, and the preferred host, the Tree of Heaven, is found in these important agricultural areas, the likelihood of this insect establishing itself here increases tremendously. This would lead to significant impacts to BC's grape, fruit tree and forestry industries. These insects could devastate entire vineyards, which reportedly could cost upwards of \$45,000 an acre to replant.

Vineyards in Pennsylvania have experienced 45% – 100% loss of wine grape crops, such as Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, since the initial detection of spotted lanternfly in 2014. Insecticide application in some vineyards and orchards in the affected areas have gone from four applications per season to up to 14 applications, increasing industry expenditures and potential costs to the environment.

If the spotted lanternfly were to arrive in Canada, Ontario's \$4.4 billion wine industry and \$4.2 billion fruit and vegetable crops would both be at risk.

Spotted lanternflies aren't great fliers, but they are great hitchhikers. Researchers say they have made their way around the United States by clinging to the wheel wells of cars and hopping onto trains or planes and laying their eggs along the way. Early detection is the key to preventing the potential damage.

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### Considerations:

Organizational/External:

- Feeding spotted lanternflies create weeping wounds on trees and can cause dieback or death of host plants .
- Spotted lanternflies threaten high-valued grape, tree fruit, and forest industries They may also threaten industries for maple syrup and Christmas trees.
- Potential impacts include reduced growth, lower yields, and poorer quality of fruit
- In Pennsylvania, spotted lanternflies have inflicted millions of dollars of damage on the agriculture and forestry industries, and it is estimated that they could cost the economy as much as \$324 million per year if they are not contained
- Their sugary excrement (“honeydew”) accumulates below host trees. Honeydew develops black mold that reduces photosynthesis and growth of understory plants and attracts wasps and bees
- Spotted lanternfly damage will exacerbate impacts of other ecosystem stressors like climate change and land use change
- Invasive trees cause damage to properties, increasing maintenance and operation costs.
- Residents will spend extra time and money on expensive control measures.
- They impede access to recreational areas, damage parks, and out compete our native species.
- Our environment becomes more susceptible to erosion, landslides, and insect infestation.
- They can seriously damage infrastructure and cost municipalities millions of dollars in repairs.
- Invasive species devalue both public and private property. By adding the Tree of Heaven as an invasive tree, the Regional District of Central Okanagan can pursue enforcement before infestation of the spotted lanternfly becomes an issue.
- This action aligns with our mandate for protection and enhancement of the well-being of the community in relation to the natural environment, wildlife, agriculture, forestry, and property owners in the service area.

## Financial:

These bylaw revisions may impact Weeds & Insects Bylaw Officer with additional complaints however we do not expect additional do not anticipate further financial implications

Legal/Statutory Authority:

British Columbia Weed Control Act  
Integrated Pest Management Regulation

## Attachment(s):

1. Redlined Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No. 1544
2. BL1544 Noxious Weed Control Bylaw
3. Redlined Noxious Pest and Insect Control Bylaw No. 1545
4. BL1545 Noxious Pest and Insect Control Bylaw
5. Powerpoint Presentation