

New – Noxious Weed Control Bylaw and Noxious Pest and Insect Control Bylaw

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Meeting

March 28, 2024

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Bylaw Amendment

- Approval to amend Regional District of Central Okanagan Noxious Weed Control Bylaw No.179 and Noxious Insect and Pest Infestation Control Bylaw No. 879

Bylaw Enforcement

- Amending the Regional District of Central Okanagan Noxious Weeds Bylaw No.179 will coordinate our vision to strengthen the broader community.
- 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.

Invasive Species

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

By adding the Tree of Heaven as an invasive plant, the Regional District of Central Okanagan can pursue enforcement before infestation of the spotted lanternfly becomes an issue.



Tree of Heaven



- The Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus Altissima) is a rapidly growing deciduous plant native to China that has become a widespread invasive species
 - The Tree of Heaven is the preferred host for an invasive pest that has not yet arrived in BC
 - These invasive plants spread rapidly, releasing toxic chemicals into the soil to deter other plant species. They 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.

Spotted Lanternfly

- This large black and red spotted insect has established itself in over 11 states in the USA and at least 2 states bordering Canada
- The insects are most often found on or near the Tree of Heaven; its favourite place to lay and hatch its eggs
- 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





Spotted Lanternflies feast on grapevines



The Tree of Heaven gives refuge to this notorious insect

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.





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- The 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.

Recommendation

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.