



## Pesticide and herbicide policy brought to Edmonton council

By [Dave Lazzarino](#), *Edmonton Sun*

First posted: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 04:50 PM MST | Updated: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 04:59 PM MST



White clover (also known as Dutch clover) is blasted by Killex on an Edmonton front yard Monday July 7, 2014. While this clover is an eatable plant for most yard owners find the fast growing plant an annoying thing to have. If not control, clover can take over a yard in just a couple of years. Tom Braid/Edmonton Sun/QMI Agency

Edmonton lawmakers are going to take a closer look at dealing with pests and weeds, but some see the move as nothing more than a nuisance.

"We've been through this I don't know how many times before," said Coun. Mike Nickel following a brief debate over whether pesticide and herbicide bans should be addressed at a committee level. "The fact of the matter is I think we have a good policy in place right now.

"I have not received from my office any demands and I'm the Communities in Bloom champion," said Nickel, a sentiment that managed to get some traction from a few other councillors during a Tuesday council meeting.

But Coun. Ben Henderson, who brought the question to council to begin with, feels otherwise.

"There may still be some questions that some councillors have and it's never a bad thing to get more information," said Henderson.

As it stands, the city's pesticide policy allows for the use of herbicides and pesticides in public areas to deal with some non-invasive weeds and pests like mosquitoes. But the aim is already to reduce those chemicals as much as possible.

"A variety of preventive and non-chemical pest management strategies are used or considered before using the least toxic [approved](#) pesticide," the policy reads. "Approved pesticide applications will be used in circumstances where alternative practices or products have failed to manage the pest."

The city also has a list of 45 different sites, including parks and schools, that were declared "herbicide-free" areas in 2004.

"We try to do as much as possible to avoid using things and even when we do use it, we try to use the least amount possible and the most appropriate product," said Mike Jenkins, the city's biological sciences technician, adding less-harmful weeds like dandelions aren't targeted at all.

Henderson feels more can be done, especially in places where the weeds don't pose a serious threat.

"I think we're taking unnecessary risks," said Henderson when asked the danger in keeping the legislation as it is.

Elisabeth Beaubien is a member of Pesticide-Free Edmonton who has been spent years trying to change the city's policy to no avail.

"I think it's a business issue. There's a lot of pressure from companies that want to keep selling chemical. But what they've discovered in other parts of Canada where they've had these bylaws passed is that there's a sudden upsurge in activity in the lawn-care industry," she said.

Both Henderson and Beaubien agree that noxious weeds have to be kept in check -- a mandatory measure set out by the province's Weed Control Act -- but the city should do it differently.

The city's policy, which only deals with city-owned land, is expected to be revisited at the community services committee in the spring.

david.lazzarino@sunmedia.ca

@SUNDaveLazz



[Doug](#) • [9 hours ago](#)

Every time I read anything Henderson I pick up a whine. Who wants their lawn to be nothing but dandelions and weeds? Or some thing coming in and having your yard or garden plants wiped out in days. If I want to use something to keep my yard free of these things, I should have the right to purchase and use a chemical which has been created and tested to get rid of them. When weed and feed was prohibited it showed after the first two years. Which is exactly why I managed to get more and use it again to return it back to good green grass. At the end of the day, you never hear anything about the golf courses everywhere that use the same if not worse more and more and even more. From Henderson and companies perspective golfers must be getting more and more deformed and have extra body parts growing with their higher rates of cancer. This is almost like them fooling around with our fire pits. Wonder when that will be drudged up again.



[Norah G Fon](#) • [21 hours ago](#)

## NORAHG RESPONDS AGAINST PESTICIDE-HATING FANATICS IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA — WHO IS ELISABETH BEAUBIEN ?

Let's clearly identify that Elisabeth Beaubien is a non-expert pesticide-hating fanatic who is paid-for-profit by Pesticide Free Edmonton, a small garden club of unemployed or unemployable women that has not even updated its web-site since February 8th, 2010. Nonetheless, this local organization is listed among Canada's prominent anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organizations. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-48S> Furthermore, Beaubien is a middle-aged forestry student at the University of Alberta, and possesses NO recognized expertise whatsoever in matters concerning pest control products — her opinions are totally valueless and utterly worthless. Nonetheless, Beaubien cycles and walks around town looking for trouble — in the form of hapless professional lawn care employees who are protecting landscapes from damaging pests in the City of Edmonton. Employees have been strongly urged NOT to respond to her verbal harassments, and NOT to answer any of her questions. Beaubien must be politely told to contact their employer or Health Canada. There is nothing to be gained by responding to a pesticide-hating fanatic. Beaubien has also attempted to scam and deceive Edmonton government officials into believing that it is necessary to prohibit conventional pest control products that are, in fact, Health-Canada-approved, Alberta-approved, federally and provincially legal, scientifically-safe, and practically-non-toxic. In fact, prohibition will recklessly destroy the livelihood of employees who are professionally-trained, law-abiding, and tax-paying. Beaubien is listed among Canada's prominent anti-pesticide terrorists. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-46L> Beaubien and others have been the principal architects in the conspiracy to recklessly and arbitrarily prohibit against pest control products used in the urban landscape. Their anti-pesticide terrorist acts of subversion have extensively damaged the professional lawn care industry. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-43B> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-238> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-5uv> There is not one known illness or death from the proper use of pest control products used in the urban landscape. Perhaps if Beaubien were to prioritize her energy to the primary causes of health problems, such as life-style choices, lives would be saved. Pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE, and will NOT CAUSE HARM TO PEOPLE, ANIMALS, OR THE ENVIRONMENT. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7HR> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2ha> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-5ni> We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries ( NORAH G ). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are dedicated to reporting about PESTICIDE-HATING FANATICS, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc...> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>  
<https://www.facebook.com/norah...> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G