

Agricultural Advisory Committee Questions for Mike Cowbrough, OMAFRA

(1) There are large areas in the Town of the Blue Mountains which contain Wild Chervil. The town has already implemented an aggressive spray program for roadsides using the pesticide Truvist, but the vast majority of Wild Chervil in the Town of the Blue Mountains is on Private Property (Hay fields, meadows, edges of cultivated farm land, along waterways etc.).

Since Truvist use is restricted in these areas what can be the most effective alternative method to eradicate the plant or at least prevent seed production?

(2) Has there been any research (ie: Field Trials) in the effectiveness of other methods of destroying Wild Chervil without spraying Truvist, or derivatives?

(3) When is the best time to cut Wild Chervil to prevent seed production?

(4) Hay that has been cut from fields containing Wild Chervil seeds is still being transported throughout the region leading to the potential of Wild Chervil reestablishing itself along roadsides and private property. How can this be prevented?

(5) Section 22 of the Ontario Weed Control Act states:

“Sections 3, 13, 16 and 18 do not apply to noxious weeds or weed seeds that are far enough away from any land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes that they do not interfere with that use. “

This has led to some confusion, some people believe if Wild Chervil is growing anywhere in the town it has potential to infect farmland throughout the municipality. Can you please clarify how “far enough away” is far enough away?

(6) Is there training for Weed Inspectors to better enable them to enforce the Ontario Weed Control Act? Also is there training in the identification of weeds so they know what is noxious and what isn't?

(7) If there is a local noxious weed control bylaw, what has priority over enforcement, the local bylaw or the Ontario Weed Control Act?

(8) We have heard anecdotal accounts about the adverse financial effect Wild Chervil has on farming operations. Is there any factual information in this regard?