



**Yukon Invasive Species Council**  
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Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5M2

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August 5, 2020

Dear Whitehorse Mayor and Council,

Over the last two years, the Yukon Invasive Species Council has observed an increase in: 1) sweetclover (*Melilotus officinalis* and *Melilotus albus*) within City limits, and 2) illegal dumping of waste soil. The accompanying photos on the second page provide some examples of the problems. Hotspots for the rapid expansion of sweetclover are along roadsides (Range Road, Robert Service Way, Grey Mountain Road, Chadburn Lake Road, Long Lake Road) and in vacant lots within City limits. Sweetclover is a very aggressive invasive plant that displaces native species, deteriorates the landscape, impedes visibility for motor vehicles, and increases fuels and potential fire spread. Because illegal dumping tends to be random in native grasslands and forests, it provides a rapid mechanism for the spread of invasive plants which is very difficult to detect and manage.

We ask that the City invest in invasive species management. Specifically, we recommend:

- 1) investment of financial and human resources to mow sweetclover along roadsides before seeds are formed in late July to limit further expansion of sweetclover,
- 2) creation of a Noxious Weed bylaw which would require property owners to clear their property of noxious weeds (see Kelowna, BC for a good example),
- 3) In the absence of a Noxious Weed bylaw, enforce the 'offensive growth' section of the existing Maintenance Bylaw 2017-09 to limit the spread of invasive species from vacant lots, and
- 4) lower tipping fees on compostable waste including soil at the Whitehorse dump and increase messaging so to discourage illegal dumping

Thank you for your consideration of these issues involving invasive species.

Sincerely,

Andrea Altherr

Executive Director, Yukon Invasive Species Council.



Sweetclover along Grey Mountain Road on August 5, 2020 near biathlon range.



Sweetclover along Grey Mountain Road by the Cemetery on August 5, 2020.



Butter and eggs growing from a waste pile dumped mid elevation off of Grey Mountain road. Photo taken on August 5, 2020, waste pile dumped in 2019. Note that the next closest observation of butter and eggs is in Riverdale neighborhood.