



In the near future, you may notice work crews performing necessary maintenance, including using herbicides to control vegetation on roadside rights-of-way in your area.

This brochure answers frequently asked questions about this procedure, including why this work is needed.

Questions or Concerns?

If you have any questions about the herbicide application in your area, please contact your local highway maintenance department.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SAFE USE OF HERBICIDES IN GENERAL, PLEASE VISIT:

U.S. EPA: www.epa.gov/pesticides

U.S. Department of Agriculture: www.usda.gov

Utility Arborists Association: www.utilityarborist.org

Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org

U.S. Forestry Service: www.fs.fed.us

Pheasants Forever: pheasantsforever.org/ROWE

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
www.debugthemyths.com

A Message for Our Neighbors

Roadways



Why Manage Vegetation on Roadways

Unwanted and uncontrolled vegetation along roadsides can reduce motorist visibility, and line of sight, which significantly increases the risk of dangerous accidents. Maintaining clear visibility of cable barriers and guard rails is important for safety inspections and motorists. In addition, properly managing the vegetation along roadsides enables motorists to safely pull off of the road in the event of an emergency and improves surface water drainage. Removing incompatible vegetation along the road can also reduce the risk of fire as the weather turns hot and dry.

Overgrown Vegetation in and Around Roadsides Can Lead to:

- Poor visibility which increases the risk of accidents.
- Limited access and visibility to properly inspect roadway infrastructure for safety.
- Reduced water drainage during heavy storms which increases the risk of accidents.
- Restricted or blocked access during or after storms from downed trees along the road.

Years of field experience has shown that an integrated vegetation management approach which includes the use of herbicides along with mechanical methods to manage vegetation, is the most efficient way to keep roadways clear. Given the extensive system of rights-of-way corridors that must be managed using mechanical methods alone isn't as practical, and doesn't control vegetation with as much success or longevity as herbicides.

The spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants has presented another problem for these areas. Using herbicides helps keep these plants from overtaking the rights-of-way, and thwarts their spread to adjacent areas, including your property.

What it Looks Like After Treatment

Our goal is to enable the safe and efficient movement of motorists and goods needed to keep our economy going, while protecting workers, the public and our infrastructure, and reducing the risk of wildfires. Using herbicides not only removes incompatible plant species, but also promotes the growth of native grasses and wildflowers. The judicious use of herbicides allows us to efficiently and economically manage our system of roads and bridges. Our goal is to selectively remove unwanted, tall-growing vegetation while promoting the establishment of low growing ground cover which limits erosion, is more aesthetically pleasing, and more sustainable.

Environmental Affects

All herbicides sold in the United States must be registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) based on the submission of scientific studies showing that the herbicide will perform its intended function without unreasonable adverse effects to human health and the environment. In addition, we take extra precautions like extensive applicator training to ensure the local ecosystem and adjacent landscapes aren't negatively affected. We also make certain that site visits are properly timed for best results and the most appropriate vegetation management techniques are used when considering the site surroundings.

Safety of Herbicide Applicators

We employ a rigorously trained team of in-house staff and/or professional contractors to help ensure safe handling and precise applications to only target incompatible vegetation. Safety — both to the surrounding vegetation and people in the area — is our highest priority.

How Treatment Affects My Property

If you're receiving this brochure, it's because your property is located near a roadside scheduled for maintenance. As work begins, we are taking the time to inform property owners about the nature of our work, so you are comfortable as we service the rights-of-way in your area. Our crews use only the most proven and environmentally sound tactics to control vegetation, such as the effective and responsible use of herbicides. We practice precision herbicide application techniques by using buffer zones between treatment areas and your property.

The result is roadsides and rights-of-way that are clear of incompatible vegetation with little-to-no effect on adjacent or nearby properties.

Not All Vegetation Should Be Mowed

In many cases, mechanical methods like trimming, cutting and mowing can have less-than-desirable results for both vegetation control and the environment. With certain vegetation, mowing the plant only temporarily removes the above ground plant material, allowing the roots to continue to grow. When these plants recover, this can promote rapid re-sprouting which requires additional and often more intensive future maintenance. Mechanical methods can disperse litter and other debris deposited on the road and have negative effects on pollinator habitat. Mechanical methods also can contribute to soil erosion and compaction—as well as cause ruts by heavy machinery. Herbicides enable control of the entire plant and often require fewer trips across the rights-of-way. This eliminates the need for much more frequent mechanical treatments, like tree trimming and mowing meaning you'll see our crews much less.