

Annual Report

Lane County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program (2005)

Prepared for:

Lane County Board of Health

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The Lane County Department of Public Works (Public Works) has prepared this Annual Report to comply with the requirements of LC 15.530 – Annual Report (Reporting).

I. HERBICIDE USE

Table 1 shows the quantity and concentration of each herbicide product applied during the time period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005. The County Engineer imposed a moratorium on the use of herbicides within County road rights-of-way following adoption of the “Roadside Vegetation Management and Last Resort Herbicide Use Policy” (Policy) by the Board of County Commissioners in August 2003. The moratorium will remain in place until the adoption of a Permitted Product List by the Board of Health

Table 1. Concentrations and amounts of herbicide product applied from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005.

<u>Product</u>	<u>Concentration</u>	<u>Amount</u>
GARLON 3A (Non-Residual)	NA	0
ROUNDUP PRO (Non-Residual)	NA	0
OUST (Residual)	NA	0

II. PROPOSED NON-LISTED HERBICIDE USE

No herbicides, are proposed for use from September 1, 2005 thru August 31, 2006. During this period, use of herbicide products not on the Permitted Product List could only occur by specific authorization of the Board of Health in accordance with LC 15.510(3)(d)

III. PROPOSED HERBICIDE USES

No herbicides are proposed for use from September 1, 2005 thru August 31, 2006, until adoption of a Permitted Product List by the Board of Health.

IV. COST OF HERBICIDE APPLICATION

Because the County Engineer imposed a moratorium on the use of herbicides in August 2003, no costs were incurred between September 1, 2004 and August 31, 2005. For historical perspective, the cost of herbicide applications from September 1, 2000 to August 31, 2003 is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Annual herbicide costs Sept. 2000 thru August 2003, including personnel, equipment and material costs.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2000 – 2001	\$53,751.62
2001 – 2002	\$32,377.26
2002 – 2003	<u>\$43,559.69</u>
Average per 12 month period	\$43,229.52

No herbicides are proposed for use from September 1, 2005 thru August 31, 2006, until adoption of a Permitted Product List by the Board of Health.

V. SUCCESSFUL NON-HERBICIDE CONTROL METHODS

Non-herbicide roadside vegetation management accomplishments during the period from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005 included:

- 6,609 roadside miles of mechanical brush mowing, top trimming, safety strip mowing and full width mowing
- 7.2 acres of seeding and mulching
- Completion of 13 sight distance safety projects
- 79 acres of field mowing
- 1,325 labor hours of manual brushing

Public Works staff participated in, and/or observed several alternative treatment methods during the past year including the City of Coburg hot foam (Waipuna) demonstration; removal of an isolated giant hogweed plant on Bailey Hill Road and the use of plastic covers and mulches as a deterrent to further spreading of Japanese Knotweed on Clear Lake Road. The next 12-month period of training, research and education may include a joint Japanese Knotweed project in the Deadwood area with the Siuslaw Watershed Council, attending the Weed Tour sponsored by the Lane County Extension Service and attending meetings of the Upper Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area and the Northwest Weed Management Partnership.

The Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC) was very active during September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005 in further educating members about noxious weeds and vegetation issues. Dr. Carol Mallory-Smith, Oregon State University presented information on GMD's (Genetically Modified Organism's) in November 2004. Jodi Lemmer, Coordinator for the East Lane Lost Creek Knotweed Project shared information about controlling Knotweed in the Pacific Northwest in December 2004. Bruce Newhouse, Volunteer with numerous plant and weed related societies and organizations presented valuable information on invasive plants in February 2005. The Road Tour in August 2005 included stops highlighting mowing, top trimming and a native seed nursery. The committee also discussed "Weed Treaters, New Technologies Root Out Non-Native Plant Species", an article provided by Commissioner Stewart from the April 2005 edition of American City and County Magazine.

VI. UNSUCCESSFUL NON-HERBICIDE CONTROL METHODS

The following non-herbicide vegetation control methods were found to be ineffective during the September 1, 2004 thru August 31, 2005 reporting period:

- a) Hot foam (Waipuna) was applied on the Northwest Expressway between River Road and Park Avenue. The treatment was not successful. It was determined the plants were too large and it was too late in the growing year to achieve the desired results. In future tests, we will apply the hot foam at an earlier time in the year and before the plants become too large.
- b) Covered Japanese Knotweed on River Road near Wilkes Drive. The treatment included the use of plastic sheeting covered with mulch. The infested area was located between the sidewalk and the street curb. It was not successful because the plants were able to come up next to the curb and sidewalk. In future tests, we will make sure the area covered is larger than the infested area to keep the plants from seeking ways to escape the fabric.
- c) Mowed Japanese Knotweed on Clear Lake Road near Greenhill Road. The infested area has been mowed at least 4 times without success. The plants are still growing well. We may try to mow the infestation more often or try different means of control.

VII. PLANNED NON-HERBICIDE CONTROL METHODS

Public Works is considering use of numerous non-herbicide vegetation control methods from September 1, 2005 thru August 31, 2006. These include cultural (replace unfavorable plant species with favorable); mechanical mowing; technical – radiant heat and hot foam; mechanical – pulling shoulders/ditching and other technical methods as identified and available. The new Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Coordinator will report for work on October 24, 2005. The IVM Coordinator will explore additional opportunities for test or pilot studies of non-herbicide control methods during the next 12-month reporting period.

VIII. HERBICIDE USE REDUCTION

Lane Code 15.510(3)(e) states:

Within one year after the effective date of this chapter, and for each consecutive year, Lane County will aspire to reduce its herbicide use along county roadsides by at least 5%. Herbicide use reduction will be measured by the percent of roadside miles treated with herbicides as compared to the previous three-year average.

Because the County Engineer imposed a moratorium on the use of herbicides in August 2003, no herbicides have been applied since that time. As a result, the three-year average baseline for the next reporting period will be September 1, 2000 thru August 31, 2003 as these were the last full years of herbicide use.

Table 3. Annual roadside miles treated with herbicides from Sept. 2000 thru August 2003.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Roadside Miles Treated</u>	<u>Total Roadside Miles</u>	<u>% Roadside Miles Treated</u>
2000 – 2001	597	2,870	20.8 %
2001 – 2002	300	2,870	10.4 %
2002 – 2003	385	2,870	13.4 %
Ave. per year	427	2,870	14.9 %

The aspired 5% reduction during the September 1, 2005 thru August 31, 2006 reporting period will result in herbicides being applied to no more than 14.1% of County roadside miles (405).

Public Works staff believes tracking herbicide use reduction by the amount of product(s) used as compared to the previous three-year average would more accurately reflect the amount of herbicides being applied to County roadsides. For any given roadside mile, the type, amount and concentration of herbicide could be very different depending on the application type and method used. By tracking the amount of product by fluid or solid weight prior to mixing with surfactants or other inert additives, a more accurate accounting and comparison from year to year can be made.

Table 4. Annual quantities of herbicides applied by fluid or solid weight, prior to mixing with surfactants or other inert additives from Sept. 2000 thru August 2003.

<u>Product</u>	<u>00 – 01</u>	<u>01 – 02</u>	<u>02 – 03</u>	<u>3 Year Average</u>
Garlon 3A (Non-Residual)	180.3 gal*	113.6 gal	209.5 gal	167.8 gal
Roundup Pro (Non-Res.)	30.0 gal**	15.0 gal	11.8 gal	18.9 gal
Oust (Residual)	8.3 lbs	2.3 lbs	1.0 lbs	3.9 lbs

* Includes 74.3 gallons of Garlon 4E (Non-Residual). No longer used by Division after 00-01.

** Includes 7.0 gallons of Rodeo (Non-Residual). No longer used by Division after 00-01.

The aspired 5% reduction would result in no more than 159.4 gallons of Garlon 3A, 18.0 gallons of Roundup Pro and 3.7 lbs of Oust being applied to County roadsides during the September 1, 2005 thru August 31, 2006 reporting period.

IX. REPORT AVAILABILITY

Copies of this report are available at the Lane County Department of Public Works offices at 3040 N. Delta Highway, Eugene, Oregon, 97408-1696. The report is also available for viewing, download, and printing from the Lane County website:

<http://www.lanecounty.org/RoadMaint/LastResort.htm>