

Weed Control Along Minnesota Roadsides

Weeds and invasive species are a big problem in Minnesota and can be a serious problem on roadsides. Noxious weeds and invasive species can harm humans, animals, agriculture and ecosystems. Proactive control of weeds on roadsides can prevent them from spreading to adjacent lands. Minnesota Department of Transportation employees work hard to control weeds in an efficient and environmentally responsible manner.

Weed Control Strategy

MnDOT ensures the limited resources available for weed control are being used effectively. The agency adopted a weed control strategy that prioritizes efforts into three categories:

- Prevention
- Control
- Containment

Prevention

Prevention is the top priority. Focusing on this step first makes the job of weed control more effective. Prevention includes eradicating newly arrived species (not only new arrivals to the state but regions of the state), controlling weeds at transport centers (areas where seed is easily moved i.e. road shoulder, gravel pits and soil stockpiles), cleaning equipment, managing disturbances to the ground, correctly identifying weeds, and maintaining healthy roadside vegetation.

Control

Controlling weeds includes using integrated roadside vegetation management techniques such as mowing, biological controls, herbicides and prescribed fire. Control efforts are focused in areas where it will be the most effective and where it is most needed. Strategic weed control focuses on controlling satellite populations, weeds in high value and ecologically sensitive areas and where adjacent landowners are actively controlling the population on their land.

Containment

Some weed species are considered to be widespread in Minnesota. When these species develop heavy infestations a plan must be developed that may require multiple control efforts within the growing season and multi-year resources including a revegetation plan. Control efforts on heavy infestations in areas that do not pose a transport risk are focused on containing the spread of the population by controlling the edge of the population and keeping the population from spreading into transport areas.

How can you help

MnDOT continues to record locations of weeds and invasive species along roadsides. One of the data collection methods used is EDDMapS.org. EDDMaps.org allows anyone to create a profile and report sightings of weeds and invasive species on its website and through its smartphone app. Reported sightings are verified for accuracy of species and location then added to maps MnDOT uses to prioritize weed control efforts.

If this option is not available, anyone can call the MnDOT district office to report noxious and invasive species.

For More Information

Visit MnDOT's [Roadside Vegetation Management](#) website or contact Tina Markeson, MnDOT Office of Environmental Stewardship, 651 366-3619.

MnDOT's Minnesota Noxious Weeds Booklet

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf>