

Invasive Plant Control – General Information

Conservation Practice Information Sheet **VT-314,315**



Example of cut stump treatment

Definition

The control of noxious or invasive plant species.

Purposes

Invasive plant control is applied in an environmentally friendly manner to reduce the negative effects these plants have on our native plant communities and habitats. Invasive plants reduce biodiversity as well as disrupt natural processes.

General Criteria

- An *invasive* species is one that displays rapid growth and spread, establishes over large areas, and persists. Invasiveness is characterized by robust vegetative growth, high reproductive rate, abundant seed production, high seed germination rate, and longevity. Some native plants exhibit invasive tendencies in certain situations
- Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) through the eradication of invasive plants, before they become well established, is an important component of any invasive plant control plan.
- Complete the Invasive Plant Control Template available through eFOTG. This control plan is a component of the overall conservation plan.
- Methods of any invasive plant control must comply with Federal, State, and local regulations.

This includes reading and following pesticide label requirements.

- All necessary licenses/permits shall be obtained.
- Control methods will be designed to protect and encourage the growth of desirable native plant species
- The control methods used will be used in a manner that does not degrade aquatic resources. Where pesticides are planned, a risk analysis (Win-PST) and appropriate mitigation will be recommended by NRCS.
- The control method(s) used will be designed to protect the soil from erosion and to avoid the degradation of soil quality.
- Disposal of noxious or invasive plant species from the site treated will be by appropriate methods (e.g., burned, piled, contained) to lessen the potential for the plants or their propagules (seed, shoots, stems, etc.) to repopulate the site or spread to new areas.
- Be prepared to control seedlings that will likely establish following removal of larger plants and near brush piles.

Considerations

- Consider choosing methods of control that cause no or limited soil disturbance. Disturbed soil may lead to increased germination of invasive plant seeds.

Operation and Maintenance

- Areas where control measures have been taken will be monitored at least annually for the purpose of detecting re-growth of controlled species or the introduction and establishment of new noxious or invasive species while the site is in recovery.
- Any re-growth of the controlled species in the treated area(s) will be controlled with follow-up treatment(s).
- A Contractor Record Keeping/Certification record keeping form is required. The certified pesticide applicator is required to complete this form.

- Adhere to Restricted Entry Interval (REI) requirements posted on the herbicide label found under the ‘Agricultural Use Requirements’ section.
- Develop a safety plan for individuals exposed to chemicals including telephone numbers and addresses for emergency treatment centers and the telephone number for the nearest poison control center. For human exposure questions, the local center is:

Name: **Northern New England Poison Center**
 Location: **22 Bramhall St, Portland, ME 04101**
 Website: <https://www.nnepc.org/>
 Phone: **1 (800) 222-1222**

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) telephone number in Corvallis, Oregon for non-emergency information is:

1-800-858-7378
 Monday-Friday
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time
<http://npic.orst.edu/>

VERMONT REGULATIONS FOR CONTROL OF PESTICIDES

All of the Vermont Regulations for Control of Pesticides must be followed. Included below is a summary of what is required to apply pesticides on lands in Vermont that are particularly important to the invasive plant control plan.

All pesticide (includes herbicides) uses or recommendations for use shall comply with that pesticide's label, which shall be registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department (now the Agency of Agriculture).

Landowners may not purchase Class A restricted use (both federal and state) pesticides without being certified by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. Class A pesticides may not be applied without a certified applicators license from the Agency of Agriculture. This includes all Triclopyr products above 2%.

Landowners may apply Class B and C pesticides on land they own without being certified. Members of homeowner associations may not apply pesticides on ‘common lands.’ Representatives of Towns may not

apply pesticides on Town owned lands without proper certification. Persons may not apply any pesticides to lands they do not own without an applicators license from the VT Agriculture Agency, or without fulfilling notification and posting requirements outlined in the Vermont regulations for the control of pesticides. Class B pesticides are typically found in fertilizer and feed stores and Class C pesticides may be sold in a variety of places including grocery stores.

Although there are exceptions, in general;
 -Class C pesticides are generally used in and around the home and contain not more than 3% total active ingredient.
 -Class B pesticides are determined to be less hazardous than Class A but require some control over where they are sold. They are generally for use outside the home and contain more than 3% active ingredient.

Be sure any certified commercial applicator selected to complete this plan has a current license by contacting the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets Certification & Training Coordinator. Certified pesticide applicators in Vermont must have completed the Core and Category 2 (Forest Pests) exams.

Any and all aquatic applications of pesticides will require a permit from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

Projects which involve application of herbicides within Vermont State Significant Wetlands must comply with the Vermont NRCS/DEC Statewide Comprehensive Control Plan. If the proposed plan does not comply with the Statewide Plan, it will need to be reviewed individually by the Vermont DEC Wetlands Division Program Manager.

Questions concerning regulated pesticides, herbicides and applicator certification contact the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets - The Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division (PHARM), Pesticide Program.

NRCS does not make herbicide recommendations.