

# Maintenance Advisory

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From Mark Geib, Engineer of Operations Field Services Division

**MDOT Transportation  
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and Operations Division  
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Questions regarding this Maintenance Advisory or to request assistance in setting up your program should be directed to:

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## Guidelines for Roadside Vegetation Spray Programs

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this advisory is to provide statewide consistency and guidance in setting up a roadside vegetation spray program in your region whether performed by MDOT personnel or private contactors. Following are important points to consider before administering any pesticide spray activity on MDOT property.

**Licensing:** All applicators applying pesticides on MDOT property must be commercially licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). Depending on the application being made applicators must be certified in one or more of the following categories:

- Category 6 (Right of Way) highway weeds and brush
- Category 5 (Aquatics) if applying in water
- Category 3A (Turf) rest areas, MDOT office lawns, etc.
- Category 3B (Ornamentals) landscape shrubs, etc.

All contractors are required to have a business license to apply pesticides from MDARD.

**Public Notice:** Any commercial agency applying pesticides must inform the affected adjacent landowners using specific details listed in [Regulation 637, R285.637.11 Commercial notification and posting requirements](#). Any agency making applications on MDOT property must provide their own public notice. Please refer to MDOT Region Resource Specialist for more information.

**Record Keeping:** All applicators who apply pesticides must keep detailed daily records of their applications. Please refer to [Regulation 636, R285.636.15 Commercial applicator records](#). If a contractor applies pesticides on MDOT right-of-way they shall provide all spray records to the MDOT contract administrator.

**Pesticides:** All pesticides (Insecticides, Herbicides, Rodenticides and Fungicides) applied on MDOT property must be labeled for the area applied and the targeted pest. All product selections must be approved by MDOT Operations Field Services Division - Roadside.

**Equipment:** All equipment must meet or surpass MDOT safety standards. All equipment used for pesticide application must be approved by MDOT before an application is made.

**Communication:** Contractors must notify the contract administrator prior to making any pesticide application on MDOT right-of-way. Pre-plan to prevent double or missed applications of pesticides in the adjoining areas.

**Protected Areas:** Each region will provide the applicator with maps of the protected areas. Pesticide applications will not be allowed in the protected areas. Contact the Region Resource Specialist for more information regarding Protected Areas.

**Sensitive Areas:** Sensitive areas include organic farms, chemical sensitive residences, construction zones, and other unique areas. The Region Resource Specialist will provide maps and lists of sensitive areas to all applicators, public and private. Other possible sensitive areas which may need to be identified include wildlife preserves, wetland areas, non-registered chemically sensitive residences, recent construction sites that may still be under performance contract for turf establishment, planted wild flower areas, etc.

**Other Considerations:** To assure the maximum benefit from the herbicide, all applications need to be coordinated with the mowing schedule. For the safety of the Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, pesticide applications will not be allowed during the scheduled pickup dates posted on the MDOT Vegetation web link listed below.

**Additional Information:** For up to date laws and regulations in the operation of applying pesticides in general, please refer to the following web link. [MDARD Licensing, Certification and Registration Pesticide Page](#)

For more information concerning MDOT's roadside vegetation program please visit the MDOT vegetation web site @ [MDOT Operations Field Services Division/Roadway and facilities/Vegetation](#), contacts listed on web site.

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