



Iowa County Highway Department

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2024 Vegetation Management herbicide Application Pilot Program

The Iowa County Highway department maintains 3400 acres of right of way along the County Highways. Historically we have applied a single herbicide treatment along guardrails for weed eradication, control, and visibility. Recently, the industry has experimented with newer more environmentally sensitive products for a more targeted vegetative control management approach. This year the Highway department will be partaking in a pilot herbicide application vegetative management program, which will commence in early April for a period of about 2 weeks; then continue through 2024.

The Highway Department staff have been properly trained and certified by DATCP to apply these EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) certified herbicides. The herbicides are plant specific to control some 150+ different types of broadleaf weed species, invasive plants, and various types of grasses. The herbicides include a surfactant to control drift and a retardant to stunt growth. The herbicides will not hurt or harm birds, bees, butterflies, or other animals/insects which live along the rights-of-way. So, this also means grasses, milkweed, and other native plants will flourish unharmed.

Invasive species within the road Right-of-Way (ROW) and adjacent properties can pose significant health risks to highway workers, utility workers, emergency responders, and anyone else utilizing the right-of-way. In the coming weeks, you may notice our crews spraying these areas to help control and eradicate Wild Parsnip and other harmful invasive weed species. Also, a plant growth regulator / inhibitor; that slows the grass growth of vegetation to improve vision and reduce the need for mowing. Our staff has been trained and certified in applying the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) certified herbicides which are being utilized. These herbicides are plant specific and will not hurt birds, bees, butterflies or other animals/insects that live in or near the ROW. This means grasses, milkweed and other native plants will flourish helping out our wildlife and pollinators. Our intention is to spray all County roads from the shoulder to about 3-5 feet from the ROW line or fence.

Iowa County will perform a pilot (spray one side of the roadway for a stretch and not the other for feedback and input / concerns with the program) on the following County Trunk Highways:

CTH I FROM STH 80 TO CTH P

CTH P FROM CTH Q TO CTH I
 CTH Q FROM STH 18 TO STH 80
 CTH Z FROM CTH YZ TO STH 23
 CTH ZZ FROM STH 23 TO CTH Y
 CTH Y FORM CTH H TO KORBACK ROAD
 CTH E FROM CTH J TO CTH XX
 CTH XX FROM TCH E TO STH 18
 CTH J FROM CTH E TO STH 18
 CTH CH FROM CTH Q TO STH 18
 CTH S FROM STH 23 TO CTH D
 CTH D FROM CTH S TO STH 39
 CTH W FORM Waldwick CTH DDD TO STH 39
 CTH DD FROM STH 39 TO CTH W

The County will also be spraying the following areas for Wisconsin DOT:
 USH 151 Median from Lafayette County to Dane County.
 STH 191 FROM Dodgeville to Hollandale.

Please see the maps for those locations. For more information on this pilot program and our 2024 work areas please see our website:

www.iowacounty.org Click on “Departments” and “Highway”.

Herbicide formula to be used is:

Herbicide	EPA Reg #	Active Ingredient	Application Rate
TerraVue	62719-738	Aminopyralid-Potassium and Florpyrauxifen-benzyl	2.5 Oz/Acre
Plateau	241-365	Imazapic	4 Oz/Acre
Liberate	Exempt	(Surfactant/drift control)	16 oz/Acre



Wild Parsnip is a Restricted Invasive Plant in Wisconsin that has been spreading along roadsides, right-of-ways, prairie and pastures. Contact with the sap to skin in the presence of sunlight can cause blisters and discoloration of the skin

(phytophotodermatitis). Care should be taken when in areas of this plant. This plant flowers in late spring to early summer.



Manitowoc County is working on controlling this plant and others along its county roads. We are using a PGR (plant growth regulator) to suppress the grass along with a herbicide to control the invasive plants. This allows us to eliminate a mowing, and controlling our invasives for our county roads. This application does not cause injury to milkweed, supporting monarch butterfly habitat. We will be treating our county roads starting in May.



“PGR” = Plant Growth Inhibitor