

Why does the County spray roadside shoulders?

Roadside shoulder spraying is a routine road maintenance activity, performed every year, to keep vegetation from encroaching into the roadway where it could become a hazard or damage the road.

Which roads get shoulder spraying?

About 850 shoulder miles of shoulder spraying are included in the County's Road Maintenance Program: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/LUT/Divisions/Operations/Programs/annual-maintenance-program.cfm>

When are roadside shoulders sprayed?

Mid-spring is the most effective time for roadside shoulder spraying. Spraying is generally performed at night when there is little or no wind and impacts to the traveling public are minimized.

Who performs this work?

The County contracts with a private contractor for roadside shoulder spraying. The contractor is selected through a competitive bid process.

Why is roadside spraying contracted out?

This work takes only a few weeks each year, must be performed at an appropriate time of year, and requires specialized equipment and herbicide applicator licenses. This work is contracted since it is not cost-effective for the County to own or lease equipment and train and license staff for an activity performed for only a few weeks each year.

What rules govern roadside spraying?

State and federal herbicide application rules must be followed. The Oregon Department of Agriculture licenses commercial herbicide applicators and herbicide products. The County's contract for this work also requires that the products and application methods meet the County's Best Management Practices for Routine Road Maintenance, protecting the environment.

How is the spraying conducted?

A large tanker truck with a spray bar drives along the road, spraying the road edge. The contract specifies that shoulder spraying will not exceed beyond three feet from the edge of the roadway. The contract also requires that roadside shoulders that are being adequately maintained (e.g., landscaped areas) will not be sprayed; those areas will be skipped over.

What effects can be expected after spraying?

Within a few weeks after being sprayed, vegetation will begin to show signs of dying.

What products are used in roadside spraying?

Our contractor uses an approved mixture of Roundup Pro, Esplanade and Liberate. A special additive called a surfactant reduces unwanted drift by increasing droplet size.

How can you get "No Spray" signs?

If you do not want herbicide sprayed on the roadside adjacent to your property, submit a ["No Spray" Program agreement](#). With an approved agreement and signage in place, your frontage will not be sprayed as long as you maintain the vegetation within the road right-of-way in compliance with the agreement. Signs are available for purchase from Washington County Operations.

