

NSTAR 2010 YEARLY OPERATIONAL PLAN, January 2010

Using the Integrated Vegetation Management Program (IVM) described in the VMP, NSTAR has converted its 25KV Distribution ROWs and is still in the process of converting its Transmission ROWs from a strictly mechanical maintenance program to an IVM program based on a 3-5 year selective herbicide application and where appropriate mechanical treatment cycle. This program allows for the safe delivery of reliable electric service and supports a healthier more diverse habitat for wildlife that depends upon early successional landscapes. (See VMP for a further description of NSTAR's three part IVM program).

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Herbicides will NOT be applied during the following adverse weather conditions:

- ✓ During high wind velocity, per 333 CMR 11.03
- ✓ Foliar applications during periods of dense fog, or moderate to heavy rainfall per 333 CMR 11.03
- ✓ CST or basal applications during periods of heavy rainfall
- ✓ Foliar applications of volatile herbicides during periods of high temperatures (90 plus degrees Fahrenheit) and low humidity
- ✓ CST or Basal application when deep snow (i.e. 6" plus or ice frozen on stem or stump) prevents adequate coverage of target plants to facilitate acceptable control
- ✓ Basal applications when the stems are excessively wet from moisture

Herbicides are not applied:

- ✓ To target vegetation standing in surface water
- ✓ Within chemical restricted Sensitive Areas per 333 CMR 11.00
- ✓ To active pasture land unless arrangements are made with land owners to move livestock to an alternative location
- ✓ Under unique circumstances that might unreasonably jeopardize the health and safety of animals, humans or the environment

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- Application period usually extends from early June through the beginning of leaf abscission in early fall
- anti-drift agents are added to the mix or solution in all foliage applications to reduce the potential of herbicide drift beyond target vegetation—drift control agents reduce the break-up of sprays into fine droplets and offer increased selectivity, leaf tissue penetration, and herbicide deposition on target plants
- Foliar applications can be made, and are effective, in light mist conditions
- ***When foliar applications are stopped by rainfall treatment will not resume until the rain ends and is not actively running off the leaf surface***
- ***Foliage application operations cease in wind conditions that make it impossible to prevent herbicide movement beyond the target area.***