



## Yamhill County Public Works Pesticide Program

Yamhill County Public Works maintains over 700 miles of roads. While mowing and brush cutting help manage roadside vegetation, the County does not have the equipment or labor to control all areas mechanically. Strategic pesticide use supplements these methods to maintain safety, control invasive weeds, and protect road infrastructure, as part of an integrated vegetation management program that also includes cultural, biological, and mechanical practices.

### Why We Use Pesticides

Proper vegetation control helps:

- ❖ Maintain clear sightlines for drivers and cyclists
- ❖ Prevent invasive weeds from spreading to nearby farms and natural areas
- ❖ Protect pavement, culverts, and drainage systems from root damage and blockages
- ❖ Support habitat restoration by reducing competition with native plants

Pesticides are used only when necessary and always in combination with other management methods such as mowing, brush cutting, and mechanical removal.

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Our IPM program emphasizes prevention, monitoring, and targeted treatment. We:

- ❖ Prioritize non-chemical control methods first
- ❖ Identify plant species and growth stages before deciding on treatment
- ❖ Use the lowest effective rate and most selective product available
- ❖ Time applications to maximize effectiveness and minimize environmental impact

### Product Selection and Timing

All herbicides used by Yamhill County are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and approved for roadside vegetation management by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The majority of applications occur during the spring and fall, timed to coincide with plant leaf-out and senescence, periods when vegetation is most actively absorbing nutrients and treatments are most effective. Scheduling applications during these windows helps reduce the total amount of herbicide needed and minimizes impacts on non-target vegetation and pollinators.

### Drift and Environmental Protection

Our trained and licensed applicators follow strict weather, buffer, and drift-control guidelines to protect sensitive areas such as waterways, wetlands, and pollinator habitat. We avoid spraying during high winds and heavy rain.

### Licensed Applicators and Training

All pesticide applications are performed by ODA-licensed public applicators who receive continuing education in safe handling, label compliance, and environmental protection. Application equipment is regularly calibrated and maintained to ensure accurate delivery and minimize waste.

### Commitment to Stewardship

Yamhill County Public Works is committed to balancing roadside safety with environmental responsibility. Through careful planning, monitoring, and adaptive management, we ensure vegetation control practices protect both public infrastructure and the natural environment.

#### \* Sensitive Crop Awareness and Application Precautions

Public Works recognizes that certain crops—such as grapes, blueberries, and hops—are highly sensitive to broadleaf herbicides. To prevent off-target impacts, staff carefully monitor wind speed, direction, and temperature at each site prior to application. If conditions are not ideal for safe application, the site will be postponed until weather parameters are suitable.