



Mechanical Vegetation Control

Yamhill County Public Works uses mechanical vegetation control as a core part of its Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program. Mechanical methods include mowing, brushing, and hand-cutting to manage roadside vegetation safely and effectively while supporting native plant communities and protecting public infrastructure.

Purpose and Benefits

Regular mowing and brush cutting are essential for maintaining clear sightlines, protecting road surfaces, and reducing wildfire risk. Mechanical control also:

- ❖ Keeps roadside drainage systems functioning properly
- ❖ Limits the spread of invasive weeds and woody encroachment
- ❖ Improves visibility at intersections, curves, and signs
- ❖ Reduces the need for chemical treatment by managing vegetation growth early

Mowing Operations

Roadside mowing typically occurs between late spring and early fall, depending on weather and growing conditions. Crews use side-arm mowers and tractors to maintain safe visibility and reduce fire fuel loads along county rights-of-way. Mowing is a relatively fast operation, allowing crews to cover the entire county one to three times each summer, depending on vegetation growth and available resources.

Mowing heights and timing are adjusted to:

- ❖ Protect desirable vegetation such as native grasses and wildflowers
- ❖ Minimize dust and soil disturbance
- ❖ Prevent erosion by maintaining root structure and ground cover

Brush Cutting

Brush cutting is performed throughout most of the year to manage woody vegetation that can obstruct views, damage equipment, or block drainage features. Operations pause only during periods of high fire danger to prevent sparks and ignition risks.

Yamhill County Vegetation Management

Brush cutting is a much slower and more demanding process than mowing – often taking two to three days per mile depending on vegetation density, terrain, and site conditions.

This work is also inherently hard on equipment. Roadside vegetation often conceals obstacles such as old fencing, wires, or discarded materials that have become overgrown. When these hidden objects contact the machinery, it can cause significant wear or damage to components, leading to frequent maintenance and repairs.

Commitment to Safety and Stewardship

All mechanical operations are performed by trained Public Works staff following established safety protocols. Yamhill County Public Works is committed to maintaining roadside safety while protecting the county's natural resources through balanced and responsible vegetation management practices.



Roadside Brush Cutter



Roadside Mower