

POLICY NO:	AG 007
POLICY TITLE:	ROADSIDE BRUSH CONTROL
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
APPROVAL DATE:	ASB 02-02-94 (February 1994)
REVISION DATE:	22-07-98; 79-06-15 (June 23, 2015)
REVIEW DATE:	

Background:

There is a need to control the growth of bush on a roadside because of **SAFETY** (visibility at intersections, obstructions in the ditch), **MAINTENANCE** (snow drifting, drying, reconstruction), **CONFLICTING CONCERNS** with fencelines, powerlines, wildlife, and road use (i.e.: wide farm equipment). Brush and trees growing within the roadside area generally pose problems for road maintenance and safety. However, roadside bush is often considered agriculturally or environmentally "valuable".

Although brush control is generally a road infrastructure concern, there is an overlap with Agriculture in terms of weed control, soil conservation, and land use. Spraying is economical but also draws a lot of criticism when larger bush "browns off" and is not removed. Mechanical removal is expensive and short term, often requiring follow up spraying.

This policy can be used to clarify and give direction to procedures and programs of roadside brush control in the County.

Policy Objectives:

1. Provide safe right-of-way along County roads.
2. Reduce the cost of road maintenance and upgrading.
3. Compliment the adjacent agricultural land as far as possible.

Procedures:

1. COORDINATE THE EFFORT
 - a. Brush mulching will be initiated as required by Public works (supervisor) - except on new roadsides as per 5 year weed control procedures under Roadside Weed Concerns Policy. (Agriculture)
 - b. All regrowth from brushing, hydro axe, or other mechanical removal should be sprayed within two years.

- c. Maintain a work map for completed brush control as per information received from brush mulching contractors.
- d. Advertise the program seasonally in newspapers. (i.e.: NO SPRAY ZONE agreements are available). The County reserves the right to over-ride No Spray Zone agreements if tree growth is not controlled and creates a safety concern.
- e. County is divided into three spray areas. A three year rotational spray program is in place.

General Guidelines:

The target herbicide application area will be from road shoulder to fenceline.

- 2. Ensure spray trespass onto farmland with industrial chemicals is avoided.