

Why does Public Works use Herbicides?

- Herbicides, both selective and non-selective control the growth of vegetation along road shoulders and ditches. Herbicides are necessary to maintain visual clearances, protect the integrity of the road shoulder and to augment the seasonal mowing. Public Works is dedicated to using herbicides responsibly and in such a manner as to reduce the risk of harm to citizens and the environment
- Herbicides are one part of a Vegetation Management Program
 - Mowing along edge of pavement to improve sight distance
 - Clear low hanging tree limbs and heavy brush along the back of ditches
 - Weed eat around guardrails and structures
 - Utilize herbicides to enhance growth of desirable grass, eliminate the undesirable grass and to control erosion

Types of Herbicides used

- **Selective**

- 2-4D Amine Salt – used to control broad leaf plants that shade out the growth of the more desirable Bermuda and fescue
- Oust 75 – Used during the Pre-Emergence phase (December – March) to control
- Outrider – Specifically used against Johnson Grass

- **Non-Selective**

- Glyphosate 41% - used to control the growth of all vegetation.

Schedule and Area

- **Schedule**

- Pre Emergence: December until mid March
- Post Emergence: April through the middle of September
- Spot Spraying: Intersection control and Johnson Grass outcroppings

- **Area**

- Centerline mileage treated = approximately 400 miles
- Spray 15' wide on both sides of the road
- Area = 30' wide X 400 miles = 1,450 acres

Operating Guidelines

- Operator is licensed by the State of Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Adhere to all applicable laws and product labels
- Herbicide applied when weather allows:
 - Temperature & sun allow sufficient drying time
 - Low wind speeds, below 10 mph
- Avoid areas designated or maintained by landowners
- Stay 5-10 feet away from stream banks

Why does the grass turn brown?

- **During the Pre-Emergence Phase a combination of Glyphosate and Oust are used together**
 - Herbicides block the photosynthesis cycle of a plant, turning it brown, however after about 30-45 days the plant will rejuvenate from the roots and turn green
 - Glyphosate is used at a low dosage to suppress the growth of undesirable species while not harming Bermuda (which is dormant at the time) and not strong enough to completely eliminate Fescue.
 - Oust is used to eliminate or suppress the growth of broadleaf plants early in the season so that Bermuda and Fescue have a chance to flourish

573 Tilton Road – Before and After

Sprayed March 27, 2018
Glyphosate & Oust



April 17, 2018



June 14, 2018

What is Johnson Grass?

- Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*) has plagued farmers since its introduction as a forage crop. This invasive and noxious weed has gotten so out of control that many states require landowners to kill Johnson grass.
- To Get Rid of Johnson Grass, as with most invasive weeds and grasses, using multiple strategies usually works best for Johnson grass control. This means that you may use a Johnson grass herbicide program along with other kinds of Johnson grass control methods. Public Works uses a specific herbicide, Outrider in a post emergence phase.
- When not treated or mowed, Johnson Grass can grow over 6-8 feet tall

What does Johnson Grass look like?

