

Herbaceous Weed Control

(Acres) 315

Definition

The removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants as listed by the MA Department of Agricultural Resources.

Condition Where Practice Applies

On all lands except active cropland where removal reduction, or manipulation of herbaceous vegetation is desired.

Massachusetts Practice Intent

- Restore, release native, or create desired plant communities and wildlife habitats consistent with the ecological site.
- Kill and control noxious and invasive herbaceous plants, such as black swallowwort, garlic mustard, Japanese stiltgrass and phragmites. MA Prohibited Plants
List: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/farm-products/plants/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list.html>

NRCS Program Policy

- A forest management plan is required on all forest land applications per EQIP policy (515.80(C))
- Herbaceous weed control has a 5 year lifespan and per general EQIP policy (512.22(E) and 512.0(H) – land enrolled in USDA programs is ineligible to receive financial assistance or other benefits under EQIP for the same practice on the same land) can only be planned once in 5 years on a unit of land.

Program Payments are authorized for:

- For effective control of invasive and noxious weeds and other herbaceous plants.
- For 1 payment every 5 years due to the lifespan of the practice.

Program Payments are not authorized for:

- To control common agricultural weeds in annual and perennial crops.
- Where control may cause harm to state listed plants and wildlife.
- Repeated mowing of Phragmites without an herbicide application.

Further Requirements Applicable to Specific Scenarios:

Low Density

- For one treatment of light infestations of herbaceous weeds using a mower, herbicide, or other effective methods.

Low Density with follow-up

- For two complete treatments, as described in the Low Density scenario. The two treatments need to occur in different years. An inspection is made at the end of each treatment to ensure success. Payment is not made until the end of the second treatment.

Moderate Density

- For one treatment of moderate infestations of herbaceous weeds using a mower, herbicide, or other effective methods. Typically used on small areas of land where weed management is accomplished

using intensive management techniques, such as chemical application (with backpack or other types of sprayers) in combination with manual/machine cutting.

Moderate Density with follow-up

- For two complete treatments, as described in the Moderate Density scenario. The two treatments need to occur in different years. An inspection is made at the end of each treatment to ensure success. Payment is not made until the end of the second treatment.

Intensive

- For one treatment of dense infestations of herbaceous weeds, such as phragmites and knotweed, using effective chemical/mechanical methods. Typically used on small areas of land where weed management is accomplished using intensive management techniques, such as chemical application (with backpack or other types of sprayers) in combination with manual/machine cutting.

High Density with follow-up

- For two complete treatments, as described in the Intensive scenario. The two treatments need to occur in different years. An inspection is made at the end of each treatment to ensure success. Payment is not made until the end of the second treatment.