



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE
COMMISSIONER

May 8, 2009

NOTICE TO TOWN OFFICIALS

Beginning on May 18, 2009 the Maine Department of Transportation will begin treating selected guardrails with herbicides to control unwanted vegetation in several of its Regions around the state. Guardrail sections will be treated once with Accord Concentrate (glyphosate) and Oust XP (sulfometuron methyl). This treatment will provide season long control of vegetation in a 3 foot swath behind guardrail.

In the past several years the Department has responded to complaints from citizens regarding vegetation which blocks driver visibility. Generally, these complaints are about vegetation growing in and around guardrail sections. We have seen an explosion of growth and invasive plants such as sweet clover which grows to a height of up to six feet. This growth has become a serious safety concern. It obscures the guardrail from the travelling public; it impedes visibility at driveway entrances, roadway intersections, hills, and curves. In some areas of the state this vegetation may harbor ticks which may transmit Lyme disease putting our employees and others at risk. It is much more difficult for us to replace guardrail sections when vegetation encroaches into the work zone as well.

We will integrate our approach to controlling vegetation in guardrail areas with mechanized mowing and removal of brush in these areas. This will reduce our need to rely just on an herbicide approach by rotating treatments thus reducing the need to spray every year. Please contact me if you have questions. I have attached the News Release which has been sent to media throughout the state. Please reproduce the News Release and post it as you see fit at public bulletin boards in your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Moosmann".

Bob Moosmann
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