

POLICY No. 25

**BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF SHIAWASSEE**

SUBJECT: BRUSH CONTROL AND REMOVAL POLICY

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS: June 11th, 2019

BRUSH CONTROL AND REMOVAL

It is the policy of this Board to control and remove brush, in accordance with the Board's tree policy; to accomplish the work in an integrated approach using hand cutting, mechanical devices and herbicides; and to complete the work annually on roadsides on a rotating basis. For the purposes of this policy, brush is defined as woody plant growth such as volunteer trees, low hanging limbs, shrubs and stump growth.

Brush control and removal by the Shiawassee County Road Commission, either by mechanical means or hand cutting, will be limited by the physical and cost constraints of available equipment, personnel, and funds for this purpose. Priority will be by road system, with the primary roads having the highest priority. Within the road system classifications, the hazard exposure created by the brush will be used as the primary factor in establishing site or area priority. Maintaining clear vision at driveway access points will be the responsibility of the individual property owner.

Due to the extensive number of miles of road under the Board's jurisdiction and its budget limitations, brush control will be accomplished primarily by the application of herbicides. The herbicides used will be those approved by the appropriate state and federal agencies for this purpose. Only individuals properly licensed by the State of Michigan and supervised by Shiawassee County Road Commission personnel will apply herbicides. These individuals must strictly adhere to the Shiawassee County Road Commission's stringent bid document requirements and specifications. The application of herbicides will be accomplished using appropriate equipment, and they will be applied in a timely fashion with the intent of inhibiting or significantly retarding, woody plant growth and chemically pruning to provide horizontal and vertical clear zones. Herbicides will be handled and applied in accordance with the regulations and specifications listed on the product label, the applicable regulations of the State of Michigan, the Board's bid document, and this policy. Roadside areas that are aesthetically desirable due to the presence of wildflowers and non-noxious native plants may be exempted from the application of brush control herbicides at the Shiawassee County Road Commission's discretion.

BRUSH CUTTING

Brush cutting shall be performed by the Shiawassee County Road Commission with use of its Tiger Arm Mower or with a brush cutting crew. Trees and brush may be cut out to the right-of-way or at least to a minimum of 14 feet off the edge of the shoulder. All trees, brush and limbs under roughly 12 inches in diameter may be cut. The height of cutting shall be limited to approximately 20 feet high. Maintained residential frontage (mowed from the residence to the road) shall not be cut with the brush cutter unless verbal permission has been granted.

In all directions of intersections, additional trees and brush may be cut to help provide sight distance. Trees and brush shall be cut out to the right-of-way line provided it meets the size requirements listed above. To provide increased sight vision, trees and brush may also be cut beyond the right-of-way as permitted by the landowner.

BRUSH SPRAYING

Crop areas, residential frontage (mowed from the residence to the road) and ornamental vegetation shall not be sprayed without permission from the landowner. Brush spraying shall be as determined by the Shiawassee County Road Commission but also in conjunction with brush cutting. Areas cut with the brush cutter shall be followed up with brush spraying 1 to 3 years later to help control regrowth.

NO BRUSH CONTROL TREATMENT ZONE

Property owners have the option to have their property omitted from the Shiawassee County Road Commission brush control program. An application form for "No Brush Control Treatment Zone" must be obtained from the Road Commission and be returned, in person or by certified mail, to the Road Commission office prior to the application.


As a condition of approval of a "No Brush Control Treatment Zone" application, the requesting property owner must agree to properly clear the road-of-way abutting the subject property of undesirable weed growth, brush and low hanging limbs. In exercising this option, the property owner will have to place signs on his/her property as a visual indication to the brush control applicators that he/she is taking responsibility for the control of brush for his/her own road frontage. This area will then be omitted from the Shiawassee County Road Commission brush control program, but only if the area is clear of weeds, brush and low hanging limbs at the time of inspection by the Contractor and/or Road Commission personnel.

Property owners that request and are authorized to opt out of the Shiawassee County Road Commission brush control program must agree to annually remove right-of-way weeds, brush and low hanging limbs abutting their property. As a point of information, mechanical cutting of right-of-way vegetation may result in the accelerated regrowth of many types of weeds and brush. Therefore, the property owner will be responsible to perform this operation annually.

Technical, operational and administrative information concerning the Shiawassee County Road Commission brush control program may be obtained by calling the Road Commission at (989) 743-2228.

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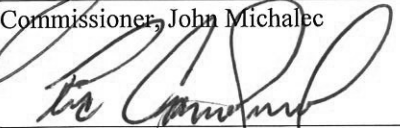
Dated: 6/11/19




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Commissioner, Ric Crawford



Director of Finance & HR/Clerk of the Board, Jennifer Rosser