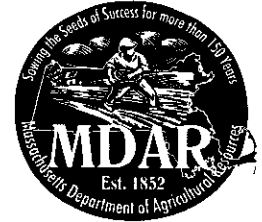




THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
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MITT ROMNEY
Governor

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
Secretary

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

DOUGLAS P. GILLESPIE
Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities. The following communities are advised that the **Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Urban Parks** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

Arlington Belmont Boston Brookline Cambridge Canton Chelsea Dedham Everett
Hull Lynn Lynnfield Malden Melrose Medford Milton Nahant Newton Quincy
Revere Saugus Somerville Stoneham Waltham Watertown Weston Weymouth
Winchester Winthrop

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Urban Parks, as submitted by: Mr. Calvin W. Layton, Environmental Services Manager, Northern Tree Service.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held at the following location:

Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM

**UMASS Eastern Extension Center – Waltham Field Station, Upstairs Conference Room, 240
Beaver Street, Waltham, MA**

Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Mr. Calvin W. Layton
Environmental Services Manager
Northern Tree Service
P.O. Box 790
Palmer, MA 01069

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Pesticide Bureau, during regular business hours. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Waltham Public Library, 735 Main Street, Waltham, Massachusetts

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. **The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Town of Belmont VMP until the close of business Friday, April 7, 2006.**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Pesticide Bureau
251 Causeway Street
Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151