

Best Management Practices for Roadside Mowing

Town of Grant, Portage County
May 2023

Objectives:

1. **Reduce Spread** of highly invasive plant species
(esp. Spotted Knapweed, Wild Parsnip, Japanese Knotweed)
2. **Encourage Growth** of pollinator plant species
3. **Reduce Impact** on wildlife species (esp. nesting grassland birds and turtles)
4. **Reduce Mowing** regiment to once per season to be more fiscally responsible.
5. **Educate Residents** about potentials for increased grassland habitat.

Suggested Dates (plus or minus days/weeks depending on field reconnaissance):

1. NO MOW MAY
2. Jun 1-15 weed-whip culverts, bridges, beam guards
3. Jun 15-June 30 (see map)
4. July 1-15 (see map)
5. July 15 – July 30 (see map)

[Note: Dates may be pushed back two weeks depending on status of invasive plant species. Coordination with Portage County Planning & Zoning Department (Land Conservationist and Weed Commissioner) and WDNR on lands abutting town roads may be needed for mowing and herbicide application]

Public Works employees engaged in mowing operations shall strive to keep the mowers 8-10" high unless otherwise instructed. To maximize efficiency both the boom and side mowers shall be used together when operations commence.