

CLP Maintenance and Vegetation Management Quick Reference Guide

The primary objective of the CLP Integrated Vegetation Management Program is to control the growth of vegetation along the electric lines so that the Cooperative can provide safe, reliable, affordable energy services to our members. This is accomplished by defining a cycle, using qualified personnel, contractors, and/or foresters, to monitor the condition of the utility right of way and by initiating various vegetation control practices to reduce, manage or eliminate undesirable growth. This approach is called an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Program. The intended goals of the IVM Program are as follows:

- Accommodate the intended use of the site (delivery of electricity).
- Advance environmental stewardship and sustainability, including restoring or enhancing ecological benefits.
- Comply with applicable laws and regulations.
- Control incompatible species.
- Ensure operational flexibility.
- Maintain site security.
- Optimize maintenance cost.
- Promote public and line worker safety.
- Protect cultural sites.
- Protect, enhance, and propagate compatible species.

CLP utilizes an IVM Program for all aspects of its management of vegetation on distribution right of way. IVM Programs incorporate manual, mechanical, and chemical maintenance to comprehensively manage the vegetation that is incompatible with the right of way use. Depending on vegetation species, densities, locations, and sizes, the most appropriate tool will be utilized for the given situation and circumstances. IVM Programs are designed to incorporate management tools to provide long term, environmentally sound right of way.

The consistent implementation of industry-accepted vegetation management practices greatly reduces the risk and likelihood of tree and power line conflicts, as well as service interruptions, and allows for the full utilization of the electric distribution system.

Three-Step Right of Way Corridor Maintenance Cycle

STEP 1: Trees and brush are removed from the corridor.

STEP 2: Selective spot treatment of an EPA-approved biodegradable herbicide where there are unwanted trees, brush, and noxious weeds. This includes poison ivy around the utility poles and trees and brush that will eventually interfere with electrical service, reliability, or accessibility. This does not include areas near gardens or mowed areas.

STEP 3: A review of any areas that may have been missed in prior herbicide treatments will follow 1-2 years after step two. Subsequent maintenance cycles follow in 6-8 year increments, which will be less intensive due to the decreased amount of trees and brush.