

VELCO is scheduled to perform regular vegetation maintenance using Ultra-Low-Volume targeted herbicide applications on the electric transmission lines on the community forest. These targeted applications are made as part of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Program to safely and reliably transmit electricity throughout New England. This application targets only tree species that could grow tall enough to interrupt the reliability of the system. We also spray invasive plant species that either 1) impede access for our crews or i2) the landowner agrees to allow us to treat.

The herbicides used are registered with the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Herbicides will be applied by license applicators and in strict compliance with product labels. The use of herbicides is regulated by state and federal regulations. These rules require that applications protect sensitive resources such as a) wells used for public and private drinking water, b) surface waters, c) wetlands, d) populations of rare, threatened, or endangered plants and animals that inhabit the rights of way.

Attached you will find labels for the herbicides we use for the ultra low volume foliar herbicide application. We use a mixture of Rodeo (Glyphosate), Escort XP (metsulfuron methyl), and Polaris (isopropylamine salt of imazapyr) in a carrier called Thinvert which is a surfactant that allows us to apply very low volumes of product in the field. The solution is applied to the leaves of individual trees/saplings during the summer (July – September), with care taken to impact as few neighboring plants as possible. Reentry time to the area is minimal – the treatment will be complete in one day and the products we use do not preclude any member of the public from the area. Our crews do put up ‘Work in Progress’ signs and we can work with you to notify the public in other ways.

We practice Integrated Vegetation Management, where our goal is to promote low-growing plants to outcompete tree seedlings over time. On our website you will find a video describing our practices: <https://www.velco.com/our-work/environment#steward-video>

Our Right-of-way pesticide permit is posted publicly with the VT Agency of Agriculture. I will share the [link here](#). It currently shows 2022 permits but will be updated for 2023 this spring.