

Selective Vegetation Management

The Lenawee County Drain Commissioner's Office promotes the management of vegetation within and along the banks of designated county drains. This process involves mechanical and/or chemical removal of undesirable vegetation, and promotion of desirable vegetation.

The absence of thick tree growth within and along drainage courses promotes the growth of low-growing shrubs, native grasses, and wildflowers which are compatible with drainage ditches. In addition, this type of vegetation decreases erosion and improves wildlife habitat.



Drain prior to vegetation management

Landowner involvement is encouraged by the Lenawee County Drain Commissioner's office. Selective cutting can be done at the landowner's request. Filter/buffer strips along drainage ditches are a good practice that landowners can incorporate to reduce erosion, promote grass bank cover, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce crop residue from entering surface waters.

Mechanical control of undesirable vegetation

Excavator driven tree shears and brush mowers are utilized to mechanically remove undesirable trees and brush. Tractor mounted boom mowers are also utilized to mow regrowth.



Under general circumstances, The Drain Commissioner's staff piles brush and trees in intervals along the ditch, where the landowner is responsible for disposal.

Mechanical removal of undesirable vegetation is most often the first step in selective Drain Right of Way vegetation management, however it is not economically or environmentally feasible to control undesirable vegetation through this process alone. Chemical (pesticide) control measures are utilized by the Lenawee County Drain Commissioner's Office to provide a cost and performance effective means of continued vegetation management along our drains.

Chemical control of undesirable vegetation

The Lenawee County Drain Commissioner's Office utilizes Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) registered herbicides to control regrowth of undesirable vegetation. The most common herbicides that are used in our program are Rodeo (active ingredient Glyphosate) by Dow AgriSciences, Garlon 3A (active ingredient triclopyr) by Dow AgriSciences, and Escort XP (active ingredient Metsulfuron Methyl) by Dupont.

All pesticide applicators employed by the Lenawee County Drain Commissioner's office are certified through the Michigan Department of Agriculture. All pesticides are applied strictly according to the Manufacturer's Labeling.



Additional information regarding the specific pesticides that we utilize is available here:

dowagro.com
dupont.com

***Material safety data sheets prepared by the manufacturer are also available upon request at the Lenawee County Drain Commissioner's Office.**

Dear Lenawee County Property Owner,

This brochure offers a basic explanation of The Lenawee County Drain Commissioner's Office policy on Drain Right of Way Vegetation Management.

The reasons for managing unwanted brush and weeds along the banks of drainage ditches extend far beyond aesthetics. Good management helps a ditch function more effectively, more economically, more safely, and in better harmony with land uses, people and desirable vegetation that surround it.

Excessive woody vegetation on a Drain Right of Way decreases water flow capacity by slowing down water movement. This can lead to flooding during periods of high precipitation. Unmanaged Drain Right of Ways are frequently colonized by noxious weeds, which can spread seed many miles to neighboring croplands and residential areas.

If after reading this brochure, you still have questions about our Drain Right of Way Vegetation Management program, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff. We also have a website at <http://www.lenaweedrain.com> which may answer some of your questions. The Lenawee County Drain Commissioner's Office hours are 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday.

Respectfully,

Stephen R. May
Lenawee County Drain Commissioner

We are the Stewards of the Great Lakes



Water Facts

- The Great Lakes contain about 20 percent of the world's available fresh water. Michigan has over 3,200 miles of shoreline on four of the five Great Lakes: Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior.
- Most surface water in Lenawee County drains to Lake Erie through the River Raisin with the remainder draining through the Maumee River Watershed.
- The Lenawee County Drain Commissioner maintains approximately 1,500 miles of open and tiled drains representing 700 Drainage Districts. The oldest recorded drain - Floodwood Creek Drain - was established in 1860.

DRAIN RIGHT OF WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



Stephen R. May
Lenawee County Drain Commissioner

320 Springbrook Ave. Suite 102
Adrian, Michigan 49221
Office: (517)264-4696
Fax: (517)264-4785
Web: www.lenaweedrain.com

Email: steve.may@lenawee.mi.us