

HERBICIDES



Why are herbicides part of watershed restoration?

From decades of experience in watershed restoration work, Clean Water Services and our partners know that strategic herbicide use is key to restoration at the landscape scale that our region needs. Herbicides are more effective, less costly, and less damaging than mechanical controls, such as hand-pulling, mulching or digging.

Clean Water Services works with many partners across the region to establish and sustain riparian native plant ecosystems that enhance the health of our community, economy and ecology. All of these organizations use herbicides to eradicate invasive weeds and prepare an area for healthy native plants.

How do restoration professionals use herbicides?

We use a strategy known as integrated pest management, the most commonly accepted approach among ecological restoration professionals across the US. Staff and contractors follow the rules set by federal and state authorities; use the safest, most effective chemicals; apply the chemicals at the right time for them to be most effective; and ensure herbicides affect only the plant they are applied to. When applying aquatic-registered formulations of glyphosate and triclopyr, we generally use a closed-container system that produces less waste and drastically lowers the risk of spills and/or mixing errors.

Our commitments include:

- Protecting the safety of the public, contractors and employees.
- Evaluating and adjusting our practices in light of the practical realities of restoration and stewardship of the Tualatin River Watershed.
- Choosing chemicals that are the least likely to cause harm to wildlife, pets and people while still getting the job done.

Most of our herbicide use takes place when native plants are too young to hold their own against weeds. CWS and its partners care for native trees, shrubs and grasses until they have grown into healthy populations that provide habitat, shade and other benefits for the watershed.

Resources

- Clean Water Services Integrated Pest Management Plan: bit.ly/2cB7pRF
- National Pesticide Information Center: npic.orst.edu
- National Ag Safety Database: nasdonline.org
- Environmental Protection Agency Pesticide Chemical Search: bit.ly/2b8wEOL
- Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide and Fertilizer Programs: bit.ly/2aGzMMM



Everything we do at Clean Water Services aims to protect public health while enhancing the natural environment of the Tualatin River Watershed. Combining science and nature, we work in partnership with others to safeguard the river's health and vitality, ensure the economic success of our region, and protect public health for more than 560,000 residents and businesses in urban Washington County.