

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan		2025-13	
DATE:	July 31, 2025	CONTACT:	Bret Witkowski, Managing Director Van Buren County Road Commission 325 W. James Street, Post Office Box 156 Lawrence, Michigan 49064 PHONE: (269) 674-8011, Extension 222
RELEASE:	Immediately		

INVASIVE SPECIES AND BRUSH MANAGEMENT IN THE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

The Van Buren County Road Commission would like to inform residents that herbicide vegetation control services will be conducted along various county road rights-of-way to manage brush and invasive species.

Brush Control Services

The Daltons, a licensed commercial applicator based in North Webster, Indiana, has been contracted to perform custom herbicide applications to control brush along roadsides. Maintaining clear roadsides is essential for ensuring safe visibility for drivers. For more information about the herbicides being used, please contact Brad Bolinger at The Daltons: (574) 267-7511.

Invasive Species Management

In partnership with the Van Buren County Conservation District, the Road Commission is also targeting invasive species such as phragmites and Japanese knotweed. These treatments help prevent the spread of invasive plants, which can be exacerbated by routine road maintenance. For details about the invasive species treatment program, contact Abbie Bristol, SWxSW Corner Cisma Strike Team Coordinator, at (269) 633-9058.

Spray Locations and Schedule

Spraying will occur in areas identified for invasive species treatment, as well as at intersections and other selected locations for brush control. Excluded areas include:

- Platted or urban areas (i.e., NOT in subdivisions)
- Orchards and grape vineyards
- Certified organic farms registered on the Michigan Specialty Crop Site Registry (DriftWatch)

Applications are scheduled to begin around August 18th and will continue until the first hard frost of the season.

Opt-Out Option for Property Owners

Property owners who wish to opt out of the brush spray program may do so by submitting an application and agreeing to maintain the roadside area themselves. This includes cutting all weeds, brush, and low-hanging limbs within 15 feet of the road surface and 15 feet above it. To request an opt-out application form, visit www.vbcrc.org/vegetationmaintenance or call the Road Commission at (269) 674-8011.

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