



Montgomery County Department of Public Works
Paul H. Clayburn, Commissioner

July 23, 2012

The Montgomery County Department of Public Works employs a spraying program to complement our roadside mowing. Spraying is a cost effective means of controlling roadside vegetation in areas that mowers can't get to. The benefits of controlling vegetation are many, the main ones are:

- 1) Improved sight distances. Anyone who has had a near collision with a deer darting out into the highway knows that ever fraction of a second counts in avoiding these unpredictable animals. A mown shoulder gives the driver the opportunity of being able to spot the deer while it's still on the shoulder of the road and take evasive action.

In addition, cutting roadside vegetation improves the drivers' visibility of highway signs--especially on hills and around turns.

- 2) Stop the growth of woody vegetation. Regular mowing of roadside shoulders prevents the growth of brush, saplings and these plants' natural progression to trees. In addition, wood roadside vegetation tends to shade the highway. While this shade may be a welcome respite in summer, in winter, shady spots on the highway tend to promote icy patches.

Of course, trees along the highway constitute a roadside hazard and become obstructions to clear zones along the highway--areas in which someone leaving the paved highway surface has an opportunity to return to the pavement while traveling through a safe, open area along the shoulders of the highway.

- 3) Expose roadside drainage features. This allows maintenance crews to see and address drainage problems that otherwise would be hidden by vegetation. In addition, other roadside problems such as slope failures and serious erosion problems also become evident with grass mowing.

If a resident has any concerns or questions regarding the County's spraying operations, they are encouraged to call the Montgomery County Department of Public Works at 853-3814.