

Road Right of Way Mowing: Best Management Practices in Wisconsin

This information can be used to identify optimal mowing schedules for controlling invasive plant species and reducing impacts on pollinators. Please note that not all species can be managed at the same time, therefore, it is important to prioritize local interests.

WisDOT
Mowing BMPs



JAYNE LSON, DNR

Invasive BMPs



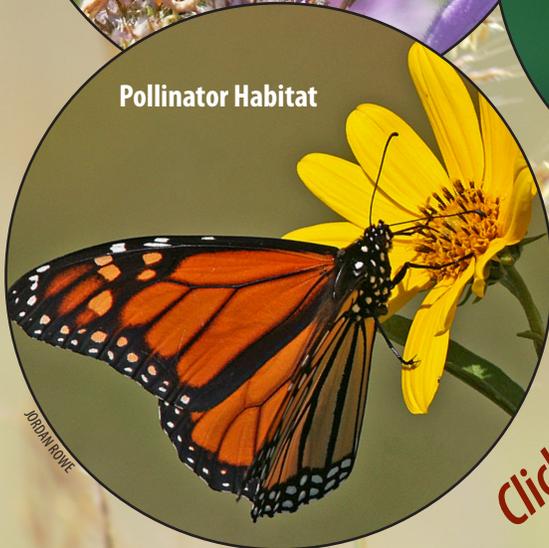
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Invasive Species



NISA KIRIMI, DNR

Pollinator Habitat



JORDAN ROWE

*Click on the photos for resources
with more detailed information.*

Promoting Pollinator Habitat

With over 113,000 miles of road in Wisconsin, ROWs can become an important corridor for pollinators. This is especially true if your roadside is adjacent to uplands or wetlands or if your road connects these habitats together.

To enhance pollinator habitat on your roadside,
mow once per year in the fall or winter.

Invasive Plant Control

Emergence, flowering, and seeding times will vary from year to year for most invasive species. ***These times become later as you move north or near the Great Lakes.***

Observe the plants in your area and, where possible, mow just before targeted invasives flower or during the early flowering stage to minimize seed production. Do not mow at late flowering or if seeds have already developed.

***For more information, please contact:
Stacy.Rowe@Wisconsin.gov***

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BENJAMIN PIERSON, DNR



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Nesting Birds

Nesting times vary by species. A rule of thumb is to **avoid mowing until July 15th.**

Turtles

Proximity to wetlands and waterways may affect the density of turtles in your area. Avoidance measures should be considered near wetlands or if turtles are present in the area. Where possible, implement turtle fencing or tunnels.

Mower heights should be raised to 8–10 inches from March 5th to November 15th.



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GREGOR SCHURMAN, DNR



DAVID GREY



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Endangered Resources Review

Wisconsin Bird Monitoring

Karner Blue Butterfly

Turtle Crossing Hot Spots

Turtle Conservation Practices

This information can be used to identify optimal mowing schedules for reduced impacts on rare species. Please note that not all species can be managed at the same time, therefore, it is important to prioritize local interests.

To help survey for rare species, see the Wisconsin Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Inventory.

For more information, please contact: Stacy.Rowe@Wisconsin.gov



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