

In the near future...

you may notice co-op crews working to keep the right-of-way for our power lines clear of vegetation. This could involve spraying herbicides to control vegetation. The brochure is intended to explain why this work may be needed near your property.

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:
Inter-County Energy
Maintenance Superintendent
(859) 936-7829

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

Utility Arborists Association:
www.utilityarborist.org

Nature Conservancy:
www.nature.org

U.S. Forestry Service:
www.fs.fed.us

National Wild Turkey Federation:
www.nwtf.org

U.S. EPA:
www.epa.gov/pesticides




A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

A MESSAGE
FOR OUR
NEIGHBORS



Integrated
Vegetation
Management



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



WHY DO UTILITIES MANAGE VEGETATION?

Regulations mandate that the rights-of-way beneath power lines must be free of overgrown vegetation. Trees are cut back to prevent power outages, and the rights-of-way must be clear so crews can access them to maintain the lines or restore power.

OVERGROWN VEGETATION LEADS TO:

- Trees and branches touching or falling on lines
- Crews not being able to perform maintenance or repairs
- Increased risks of electrocution or shock by creating a path from lines to the ground

Using herbicides and mowing are the most efficient ways to keep our right-of-ways clear and safe. Using mechanical methods alone is not as practical. There are hundreds of miles that must be managed. The safe application of herbicides greatly assists in controlling invasive plants and is necessary to keep the lights on for your homes or businesses.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE AFTER TREATMENT?

Herbicides remove unwanted or invasive weeds, brush and trees. It also promotes the growth of desirable grasses and wild-flowers, giving these plants greater chances to obtain needed moisture, sunlight and nutrients.

Since 1953, researchers at Purdue and Pennsylvania State Universities have shown that proper herbicide applications promote the growth of grasses, low-growing shrubs and other ground cover that native animals prefer.

WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

All pesticides sold in the United States must meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines to protect human health and the environment. We take extra precautions like ensuring that personnel obtain extensive applicator training. We also make certain that site visits are properly timed for best results and the most appropriate application methods are used.

WHO APPLIES THE HERBICIDES?

We employ a trained team of professional applicators to ensure safe handling and precise applications to targeted trees and brush. Safety is our highest priority. Our team evaluates adjacent properties to ensure this land is not adversely impacted.



HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY PROPERTY?

Our crews use application techniques based on nearly 60 years of university and industry research with a goal to create optimum plant and wildlife habitats. We use buffer zones between the right-of-way and adjacent land. The result is that our power lines and rights-of-way are clear with little-to-no impact on nearby properties.

CAN VEGETATION JUST BE MOWED?

Trimming, cutting and mowing alone can have less-than-desirable results for both vegetation control and the environment. With certain vegetation, mowing alone only removes the plant tops and leaves the roots intact. This can promote rapid re-sprouting and unwanted seed distribution. Herbicides enable us to control entire plants and often only require one application every few years. This means less need to send crews to your area.