

Connecticut Department of Transportation
Mowing
June 10, 2019

Roadside mowing for both limited access highways and secondary state routes is a core function of the Department of Transportation. The purpose of mowing is to provide a safe travel-way for the public by maintaining sightlines and safe pull-off areas. The other purpose is to foster a stabilized turf area to support the roadways and activities needed to maintain the roads and accompanying roadside appurtenances such as guiderail systems, signage, electrical cabinets, drainage, etc.

The Department's Roadside Mowing Policy is to mow as much and as often as is necessary for safety purposes, but in general, mowing will take place once grass reaches 8 inches in height. However, there are considerations and external factors that can affect mowing schedules and result in observed overgrowth in roadside vegetation. The Department will still be operating at a reduced staffing level like last year, until current authorized vacancies are approved and filled upon completion of the hiring and recruitment process.

Compounded by aging equipment and higher than average rainfall, the Department's ability to mow proactively, while tending to other necessary priorities such as pavement resurfacing projects, repairing guiderail, fixing potholes and removing hazardous trees, has been taxed. In addition, the Department has embraced efforts to build our state's pollinator corridor so, in some locations; motorists may see areas that might be defined as "conservation areas" in support of that effort.

Based on all of the current conditions, Maintenance Supervisors responsible for specific geographical areas routinely patrol their respective sections, and assign mowing activities to address areas of most concern, including those reported by motorists. The Department will continue to effectively address the vegetation management needs of the state roadway network maximizing all available resources.