Vegetation Rules & Regulations for Outdoor Advertising

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is responsible for regulating off-premises outdoor advertising adjacent to controlled travelways; which includes the enhanced National Highway System, the interstate system, and highways classified as Federal Aid Primary as of June 1, 1991. Cutting and trimming of vegetation under controlled conditions on highway right of way when this vegetation obscures a lawful sign is allowable with an Outdoor Advertising Vegetation Permit.

Missouri's rules and regulations regarding the control of outdoor advertising are located in Sections 226.500 to 226.600, RSMo and 7 CSR 10-6.

Vegetation Permit Application

An Application for Outdoor Advertising Vegetation Permit must be submitted and approved prior to permitting the cutting, trimming, or spraying of vegetation in front of any lawful sign. The completed application must be completed in its entirety and submitted to the appropriate outdoor advertising area office along with proof of $1000 Performance Bond or $1000 deposit (payable to "Director of Revenue-Credit State Road Fund) per application; and site drawing showing the distance from each sign face of vegetation to be affected.

If approved, a permit is issued allowing the applicant three hundred sixty five (365) days to complete the vegetation work. Access to the vegetation area must be from private property. All right of way must be restored by removing all debris, filling all ruts, reseeding, and adding mulch. The applicant will be held responsible for any damage to the right of way.

Herbicides

Only general use non-restricted herbicides approved by MoDOT's authorized representative may be used to trim or remove vegetation (refer to EPG 821.25 Products). All herbicides must be used in strict accord with the manufacturer's instructions on the label. The applicator must be a certified commercial applicator or under the supervision of a certified commercial applicator and all desirable vegetation must be avoided. All trees controlled with herbicides should be cut down and removed within sixty (60)

Endangered Species Act

Trimming, cutting or removal of trees three inches or greater in diameter, as measured at a point 54 inches above ground, that are considered suitable roosts for Indiana Bats and Northern Long-Eared Bats is prohibited from April 1 through October 31 due to these species being protected under the Endangered Species Act. Applicants may contact the specialist or submit a habitat assessment of the proposed cut area from a qualified consultant for consideration from April 1 through October 31.

Mowing or Brush Hogging

Applicants are encouraged to avoid mowing and brush hogging from August 15 through October 31 to encourage the proliferation of the pollinator species by allowing the seeds of existing favorable plant species to mature and be viable for the next growing season.

Trimming of Trees

Trees of any size may be trimmed under a vegetation permit in accordance with the guidelines outlined in EPG 236.16.15.

For more information on outdoor advertising please contact the area specialist for your county.

Missouri Department of Transportation
Right of Way– Outdoor Advertising
1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636)
www.modot.org/business/Outdoor_Advertising