

Right of Way Mowing

Mowing is done to control the growth of grass, brush, and weeds in the highway right-of-way. To do this, mechanical and hand mowing equipment is used. The mowing is primarily carried out by private contractors but in some cases the ministry uses Ministry of Highways, urban or rural municipality personnel to complete mowing.

The ministry mows highway right-of-ways for the following reasons:

1. Optimize snow storage in the ditches and reduce drifting on the road surface.
2. Control brush and harmful weed growth.
3. Improve visibility on curves and at intersections.
4. Maintain a neat appearance.

For summer Maintenance practices LOS 1 is defined as:

- Inter-provincial routes and highways with greater than 1,500 annual average daily traffic.

Priorities for mowing are defined according to the following standards:

Stage 1

Includes all Level of Service 1 (LOS 1) provincial highways

- Mowing happens between **June 7 and July 15.**
- Receives a shoulder cut of **4.0 m (approx. 3 feet)** immediately adjacent to the road surface.

Stage 2

Includes four-lane highways and all other provincial highways.

- Mowing happens between **July 15 and October 15.**
- Receives a shoulder cut of **4.0m (approx. 3 feet)** adjacent to the road on both sides and the full median on divided highways.

In some cases, a third cut may be required. This is due to early mowing completed by the contractor and exceptional growth. These cuts will be assessed on a case by case basis.

