

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.

Priorities for mowing are defined according to the following standards:

First Cut

Includes all high-traffic and some secondary provincial highways.

- Mowing occurs between June 7 and July 15.
- Receives a shoulder cut of 4.0 m (approx. 13 feet) immediately adjacent to the road surface.

Second Cut

Includes four-lane highways and all other provincial highways.

- Mowing occurs between **July 15** and **October 15**.
- All four-lane highways will receive a full-width cut.
- High traffic two-lane highways will receive a 12 m cut.
- Secondary highways will receive an 8 m cut.
- A 4 m wide strip will be mowed adjacent to all other highways with additional mowing as required to ensure visibility and weed control.

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.