

# 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:

## Phase One

- In the north, mowing occurs between June 7 and July 15 on two-lane, four-lane and secondary highways.
- In the central and south, mowing will occur on two and four lane highways.
- Mowing will not be completed in the southwest and west central areas to allow for more time to salvage hay in anticipation of below normal moisture conditions.
- Receives a shoulder cut of 4 metre (approx. 13 feet) immediately adjacent to the road surface.

## Phase Two

All provincial highways.

- Mowing occurs between **July 15** and **October 15** in the north.
- In the central and southern portion of the province **August 15 - October 15**
- 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.