

# FACT SHEET - VTRANS PESTICIDE PROGRAM

Prepared for 2025 Legislative Session on behalf of Vermont Agency of Transportation  
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More information at [VTrans Vegetation Management Homepage](#)

This Fact Sheet is specific to VTrans' Pesticide Program initiatives including highway guardrail spraying and spraying supporting projects and construction. VTrans pesticide spraying operations are regulated by the [Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets](#) which requires annual permitting, certifying new applicators, and quality assurance testing chemical mixes.

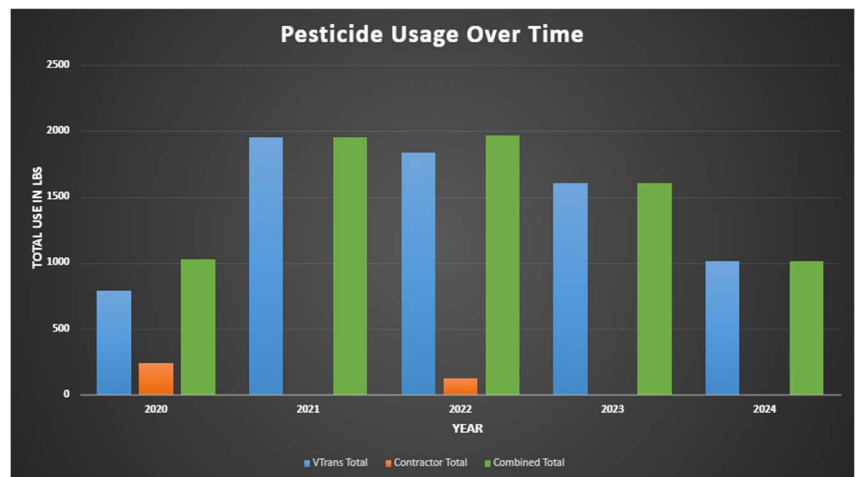
## Why should we spray highway guardrail?

- Spraying guardrails is part of our IVMP (integrated vegetation management plan) which focuses on aesthetics, economic benefits, environmental sustainability, and safety.
- Properly managed vegetation along the roadside can help increase air circulation, and the amount of sunlight reaching the pavement which in turn increases dry pavement conditions.
- It enhances safety by increasing sight distance for wildlife, signs, intersections, traffic signals and driveways.
- Controls the growth of woody vegetation along roads as their roots systems compromise pavement integrity.
- Promote worker safety by controlling noxious weeds (poisonous plants) in areas workers are expected to access.
- Economically more sustainable than mechanical methods of vegetation management.



## What does our chemical usage look like over the years?

- **From 2010 – 2018:** VTrans utilized contractors for all guardrail spraying and airport weed management.
- **From 2019 – 2020:** VTrans utilized a retrofitted liquid salt/plow truck for highway guardrail.
- **2021 – Present:** Beginning in 2021, VTrans District Maintenance and Fleet Division has implemented three custom spray units to optimize guardrail spraying efficiency and save money in the long run by cutting out contracted spraying and reducing total pesticide usage.



## What are we working on for the 2025 Spray Season?

- VTrans has utilized three custom spray units from Chemical Containers Inc. to eliminate the reliance on contracting during the spray season for four years.
- Our pesticide program manages about 1113 miles of guardrail, and we are working on updating our inventory to be as accurate as possible.
- A training opportunity with Chemical Containers is being developed to continuously maintain and educate our pesticide applicators working knowledge.
- We are continuously working with our sister agency Dept. of Agriculture to track, report, and in turn reduce the pesticide usage while maintaining our right-of-way and prioritizing safety and transportation infrastructure protection.
- Nine iPads have been activated to support each application team with up-to-date maps, pre-marking sites, usage data and no spray areas.
- Our IVMP is being updated as new research and data is available to us. This will help manage our infrastructure and collaborate with the many stakeholders involved more effectively.
- The [SOP](#) we use for daily spray operations is undergoing another update to continue to improve the program in terms of safety and effectiveness.

