**DESIGNER:**

* Use of this item requires coordination with the MassDOT Landscape Design Section in the field. Please consult with MassDOT Landscape Design Section prior to including these items in a project. The MassDOT Contact must be customized for each project.
* Consult with the MassDOT Landscape Design Section regarding any changes to text other than the green highlighted text.
* Keep blue highlighted information in the spec to be removed by MassDOT Contracts

CONTRACTS:

* INCLUDE HERBICIDE REPORT FORM IN THE BOOK – SEE PROPOSAL DOCS FOLDER DOCUMENT A00810

***REV. 2025.03.01*** *(REV. DATE TO BE REMOVED BY CONTRACTS)*

# ITEM 102.3 HERBICIDE TREATMENT OF INVASIVE PLANTS HOUR

This work must be performed by persons who meet the qualifications below and are approved by the Landscape Design Section.

Work under this item consists of herbicide treatment of invasive plants currently existing within the project limits and as directed. An Invasive Plant Management Strategy (IPMS) shall be submitted to the Engineer for review and approval and the IPMS shall be implemented on-site. The IPMS shall be written and submitted per Item 102.33 Invasive Plant Management Strategy and shall be measured and paid for under that Item.

Work under this item shall be coordinated with work and schedule for Selective Clearing, Clearing and Grubbing, Mowing, Tree Removal, Planting, and Wetland Mitigation items.

Payment is per hour on-site and shall be compensation for a minimum crew of 2 licensed applicators, 2 back-pack sprayers and mist-blowers, a properly equipped spray truck with spray hoses, and a tank with sufficient capacity for a full day of work. If there is only one applicator, hourly payment shall be adjusted to 50 percent of the unit price.

Date and time stamped photos indicating start and stop time of work must be submitted if requested.

This item is not intended for manual removal of plants.

Management of plants determined to have been introduced to the site via imported loam, compost, mulch, plants, equipment, or other construction activities will be the Contractor’s responsibility and at the Contractor’s expense.

Herbicide shall be applied during daytime hours only.

Measures to prevent the introduction of invasive plant species to the site and to address introduction due to construction-related activities shall be covered under the Standard Specifications, Division I - Subsections 7.01(D) Plant Pest Control and 7.13 Protection and Restoration of Property as amended in these Special Provisions.

Plant species targeted for management under this item shall be as determined in the field per the site walk and as specified in the IPMS.

The definition of invasive plant species shall be as described by Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG): “non-native species that have spread into native or minimally managed plant systems in Massachusetts, causing economic or environmental harm by developing self-sustaining populations and becoming dominant and/or disruptive to those systems.”

Control of invasive plants shall begin immediately with the initiation of construction activities and prior to any clearing or site disturbance. Treatment areas shall include stockpile locations and may, upon approval of the Engineer, extend outside the project limit. Treatment shall be done each consecutive year for the duration of the contract unless specified otherwise in the IMPS or unless directed otherwise by the MassDOT invasive species contact. Work shall be done during the growing season from May – October unless otherwise specified in the IPMS.

Areas identified for vegetation control measures shall be as shown on the plans and as determined in the field by the Engineer and a MassDOT Landscape Architect. Contact at MassDOT Landscape Design Section may be contacted at: XXXXX.XXXX@dot.state.ma.us. (DESIGNER: Insert LD Project Reviewer email.)

## QUALIFICATIONS

The applicators shall submit and meet the qualifications outlined below. A list of contractors specializing in invasive management and approved by MassDOT Landscape Design Section is available on the following website: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/landscape-design-and-roadside-maintenance> under Invasive Plant Management.

Requirements

1. Company must provide proof of qualifications by providing the following:

1. Narrative describing company, its expertise and experience with invasive plant control.
2. Demonstrate experience with herbicide treatment as part of restorations and in sensitive areas.
3. Describe company’s technical qualifications and past performance.

2. Company must meet licensing requirements:

1. All crew applicators must have a Massachusetts Commercial Applicator License (CORE).
2. At least one or more applicator must have a ROW certification, if required for work.
3. Company must provide name(s) of applicator(s) and Applicator License/Certification number for all contractor crew leaders working on the project.
4. Company must provide documentation of any warnings, penalties or fines received in the last three (3) years.

3. Company must provide proof of experience with invasive plant control and include following:

1. At least five (5) references from prior invasive plant control work completed in last five (5) years. Provide contact information including address, phone number and email.
2. Provide a summary of each of these projects including nature of the problem, specific invasive vegetation treated, dates and period of treatment, methodologies used, and summary of success or not in terms of meeting performance objectives. Include summary of equipment used.
3. Photo documentation of these projects.
4. GPS coordinates of project locations, if available.

4. Crew leader must have expertise with invasive plant control and provide the following:

1. Have held Core license for at least five (5) years.
2. Resume listing five (5) or more years of experience applying pesticides with the company or with another company specializing in vegetation management.

## SUBMITTALS

No work shall begin without approval of the submittals.

Submittals include the following items:

### Invasive Plant Management Strategy (IPMS)

At least thirty (30) days prior to proposed treatment the IPMS shall be submitted for approval by the Engineer and MassDOT Landscape Architect. All chemicals, methods and work done under this item shall be consistent with the IPMS. The IPMS shall be as described under Item 102.33.

### Herbicide Use Report

Within two (2) weeks after each application, the Contractor shall provide to the Engineer and the MassDOT Landscape Architect a completed and signed MassDOT Herbicide Use Report.

### Photo Documentation

Digital photos with date and time of herbicide application work, showing start time and completion time, are required and must be submitted for measurement of payment upon request.

## MATERIALS

All proposed herbicides shall be as approved in the IPMS. Herbicides shall be labeled for the method of treatment and shall meet all federal, state and local regulation requirements. Application rates will depend on herbicide proposed and shall be per the manufacturer’s label for specific application.

## METHODS

All methods used shall be as approved in the IPMS which shall be determined during the Initial Site Walk as described under Item 102.33 Invasive Plant Management Strategy.

The Contractor shall be responsible for marking delineated areas and plants to be preserved, removed, or otherwise treated. Fencing or other materials needed for marking and delineating protected areas shall be incidental to this item.

The Contractor shall notify the Engineer a minimum of 3 days prior to date of expected herbicide application. Applicators shall notify the Engineer upon arriving on-site and upon leaving the site.

### Herbicide Applications

All herbicide application shall conform to Massachusetts Pesticide Laws and Regulations per the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Pesticide Bureau.

Mixing, applying and/or disposing of herbicides shall always be in accordance with instructions on their labels and all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Mixing shall not occur within sensitive areas, wetlands, or buffer zones.

Contractor shall not spray 2 hours prior to precipitation, during rain, or during windy conditions. The Contractor shall be responsible for monitoring weather conditions and adjusting the work schedule as appropriate for the herbicide and application method to be used.

Targeted vegetation shall be identified and marked prior to treatment. Plants treated by foliar spray, injection or glove application or other methods that leave standing vegetation, as opposed to cut-stump application, shall remain clearly marked for identification through the contract period.

Desirable vegetation shall be protected from both spray and other physical damage.

Contractor is responsible for any damage to vegetation not designated for removal or treatment. Vegetation damaged shall be restored. Cost of replacement plants and/or restoration shall be borne by the Contractor.

Contractor shall ensure that the public does not enter a work area while herbicide application or spraying is underway.

### Disposal Of Invasive Plant Material

All material to be cleared shall become the property of the Contractor. The satisfactory disposal of all cleared plant material (seeds, roots, woody vegetation, associated soils, etc.) shall be the Contractor’s responsibility.

The Contractor shall take measures to prevent viable plant material from leading to further infestations (seeds, roots, woody material, etc.) while stockpiled, in transit, or at final disposal locations. All precautions shall be taken to avoid contamination of natural landscapes with invasive plants or invasive plant material.

Chipping, shredding, or on-site burning of plant material must be approved by the Engineer and included in the IMPS.

For plant material taken to an incinerating facility per the IPMS, a receipt from that facility shall be submitted to the Engineer as proof of disposal.

Where feasible, it is preferable to dispose of plants on-site or to bury them on-site with on-going monitoring for re-sprouting. Disposal locations and methods must be approved and included in the IPMS. Site work such as grading and seeding to stabilize and restore disposal area shall be incidental to this item.

The Contractor shall be responsible for treating or otherwise managing areas of re-growth due to improper disposal. Treatment shall be at the Contractor’s expense.

### Follow-Up Treatment

Plants and areas shall be re-treated as necessary and as appropriate to the time of year. Treatment shall be for the duration of the contract and per the IPMS.

## MEASURE OF SUCCESS

The expectation is a minimum of 85-95 percent control achieved after the first treatment, depending on plants targeted and extent of population, and based on the expectations laid out in the IPMS. The expectation for the contract duration is 95-100% eradication by the end of the treatment period, unless otherwise specified in the IPMS.

## METHOD OF MEASUREMENT

Item 102.3 will be measured for payment by the Hour of verified crew time spent on the project doing herbicide application as and where specified herein and in the IPMS.  A crew shall be defined as a minimum of two licensed applicators each equipped with (at minimum) back-pack sprayer and mist blower.  The crew shall also have a properly equipped spray truck with hoses and a tank with sufficient capacity for a full day of work.

## BASIS OF PAYMENT

Item 102.3 will be paid at the contract unit price per Hour, which price shall include all labor, materials, equipment, tools, and all incidentals required to complete the work.

Payment will be based upon verified time spent on the project doing herbicide application as and where specified in the IPMS and upon receipt and approval of submittals. Payment will not include travel time to and from the Contractor's place of business and nor time for investigative field trips.

If there is only one applicator, hourly payment shall be adjusted to 50 percent of the unit price.

The Invasive Plant Management Strategy will be paid for under Item 102.33.

# ITEM 102.33 INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY HOUR

***REV. 2025.03.01*** *(REV. DATE TO BE REMOVED BY CONTRACTS)*

This item consists of providing an Invasive Plant Management Strategy (IPMS) for the control of invasive plants currently existing on the project site and/or as directed and shall be coordinated with Item 102.3 Herbicide Treatment of Invasive Plants. Unless otherwise approved, the IPMS shall be submitted in the form of the MassDOT Invasive Plant Management Strategy Report Form.

The IPMS shall be submitted for review and approval by the MassDOT Landscape Design Section or their representative, and the IPMS shall be implemented on-site.

The Invasive Plant Management Strategy Report Form is available online at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/landscape-design-and-roadside-maintenance> under Invasive Plant Management.

Herbicide treatment for invasive plants shall be as described under Item 102.3 Herbicide Treatment of Invasive Plants and shall be compensated per that Item.

Work under this item shall be coordinated with work and schedule for Selective Clearing, Clearing and Grubbing, Mowing, Tree Removal, Planting, and Wetland Mitigation as relevant to the project.

Individual attending the site walk and determining the Invasive Plant Management Strategy must demonstrate expertise with vegetation management and invasive plant control and submit qualifications as described below.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Individual shall be from the same company as that providing services for Item 102.3 Herbicide Treatment of Invasive Plants and shall submit the following, if not submitted under Item 102.3:

* Submit copy of current Core license.
* Submit a resume listing five (5) or more years of experience managing invasive plants with a company specializing in vegetation management.
* References shall be submitted if requested.

### SUBMITTALS

### Task Summary & Reports

For measurement of payment, the contractor shall submit the total sum and a breakdown of hours for the tasks performed. At a minimum, the tasks shall include the Initial Site Walk, submittal of an approved IPMS, and if requested to accommodate project or site changes, a Follow-up Site Inspection and accompanying IPMS Amendment.

Interim Site Monitoring Reports and/or a Final Report shall be submitted if requested by the MassDOT Landscape Design contact. The MassDOT Landscape Design contact must be notified to attend the site inspection walk when an Interim or Final Report has been requested.

### Invasive Plant Management Strategy (IPMS)

At least thirty (30) days prior to construction activities and/or any proposed treatment, the contractor shall submit the IPMS for approval by the Engineer and MassDOT Landscape Architect. All chemicals and methods proposed shall be consistent with applicable Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Order of Conditions.

The IPMS shall be completed in coordination with the Prime Contractor and the Engineer and shall include the following as appropriate and applicable to the project and to the IPMS Report Form questions and Guidance:

1. **Project Information**
   1. Company writing the IPMS and performing the herbicide application.
   2. Date of site walk
   3. Attendees at site walk
   4. Expected end date of contract and expected last treatment (month/season)
2. **Brief Description of Conditions**
   1. Provide a free-hand sketch on construction plans or aerial image showing species, location, and as relevant, show or note extent of population as relevant to Strategy (i.e., population extends off ROW preventing eradication, small population and eradication deemed feasible within contract schedule, etc.).
3. **Coordination with Roadway Contractor regarding other work** 
   1. Tree Work: Note coordination to be implemented with tree removal, clearing, and clearing and grubbing as applicable to the project.
   2. Wetland Mitigation - Include management proposed for wetland mitigation areas in the IPMS, if and as required.
   3. Planting: If there will be planting in areas proposed for treatment, propose treatment and schedule to avoid herbicide damage to plants.
   4. Mowing: If coordination is required with state mowers, note need in IPMS.
4. **Soil Management**
   1. Provide specifics on how soil with invasive plant roots (in particular) or seeds will be handled (i.e., separate stockpiles, plant material will be buried on-site, re-used on-site, disposed off-site and if so, where?).
   2. Show stockpile locations on plan and include treatment schedule.
   3. Note measures that will be implemented to avoid spread through equipment, including how and where equipment will be cleaned.
5. **Invasive Plant Treatment & Management**
   1. Proposed chemical and methods of treatment for each species or area.
   2. Time of treatment based on target plant species.
   3. Submit product label including application methods and rates (entire MSDS information need not be submitted if available online).
   4. Proposed performance metrics or measure of treatment success if different from that specified under Item 102.3.
   5. Method for disposing invasive plant material. This includes material that may result in spread (i.e., seeds, roots) and material that has been treated and/or is not viable (foliage, dead wood, etc.). Methods may include grinding in place, stockpiling and treating, and incinerating offsite.
   6. Expected follow-up treatment for duration of contract.
6. **Monitoring Schedule** if requested by MassDOT.

Note: The IPMS is critical for identifying pre-construction conditions as well as strategies for minimizing import or spread of invasive plants. Failure to provide an approved IPMS may jeopardize this item, in which case, the contractor will be responsible for management of invasive plants found on-site at no cost to the contract.

### Photo Documentation

Digital photos of site conditions, typical species, and extent of infestation must be provided with the IPMS and with any follow-up monitoring or reporting. Photos of follow-up monitoring and reporting must be date and time stamped for acceptance.

## METHODS

## Initial Site Walk

Prior to any construction activities and soil disturbance, the Contractor shall walk the site with the Engineer and the MassDOT Landscape Architect to determine the IPMS. During the site walk the Contractor shall identify limits of work and, as necessary, mark locations of areas designated for treatment and individual plants targeted for treatment or removal. The Contractor shall be responsible for marking delineated areas and plants to be preserved, removed, or otherwise treated. Fencing or other materials needed for marking and delineating protected areas shall be incidental to this item.

### IPMS Follow-up Amendment

The IPMS may be amended to address additional concerns or adjust to conditions if required by the MassDOT Landscape Architect. The amended IPMS shall be submitted to the Engineer and MassDOT Landscape Architect for approval at least fourteen (14) days prior to any proposed treatment.

### Interim Site Monitoring Inspection Reports

If required by the MassDOT Landscape Architect and Engineer, Interim Site Monitoring and an accompanying report shall be conducted. Interim Reports must include time and date stamped photos showing treated locations and species.

Final Inspection

A final inspection and report documenting the status of the invasive control may be required for regulatory purposes or for instances where control will be continued by others. The report shall include photo documentation of pre-construction (existing) and post-treatment conditions, notations on a plan or aerial image of area treated, summary of treatment performed, and control achieved. Final reports submittal must include time and date stamped photos.

## METHOD OF MEASUREMENT

Item 102.33 will be measured for payment by the Hour. The basis for measurement shall be per the completion of tasks as approved under the Task Summary submittal and acceptance of submittals and photos described above.

## BASIS OF PAYMENT

Item 102.33 will be paid at the contract unit price per Hour, which price shall include all labor, materials, equipment, tools, and all incidentals required to complete the work. Payment shall not include travel time to and from the Contractor's place of business.