



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### THE CP VEGETATION SPRAYING PROGRAM

---

**Q: Why does CP need to spray the track to control vegetation?**

CP must follow [Transport Canada's Rules Respecting Track Safety](#). The Rules require as part of ensuring safe railway operations that CP maintain free draining ballast (the rocks that hold the rail ties in place) and ensure that vegetation does not prevent certified track inspectors from their regular inspections assessing the condition of the railway tracks.

To meet these requirements, CP sprays Health Canada approved vegetation control products on the ballast. This application prevents weed growth, which blocks the drainage of the ballast and blocks the view for track inspectors.

**Q: When will the spraying take place in Kahnawake?**

The spraying is scheduled to take place on Wednesday June 24, 2020. If the weather conditions do not permit spraying on this day, the work will be completed on either June 25 or June 26.

**Q: How long will the spraying process take to complete?**

Spraying will take place first thing in the morning and the whole process will take approximately 20 minutes.

**Q: How many times will the tracks in Kahnawake be sprayed in 2020?**

The tracks will only be sprayed once in 2020.

**Q: Will CP spray vegetation control products on any other areas through Kahnawake in 2020?**

No, vegetation control products will only be applied to track ballast, which is 16-feet wide.

**Q: What vegetation control products will CP spray on the tracks through Kahnawake?**

All products used by CP have been approved by the [Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency](#). In 2020, CP will be applying a mix consisting of Esplanade, Navius and RT540.



**Q: What measures does CP take while spraying, to ensure the work is conducted safely?**

**Licensing and Training**

CP hires contractors who are specifically licensed to apply vegetation control products. In order to become licensed, the contractors must undergo annual training and testing through their employer, to ensure that vegetation control products are applied safely.

**Environmental Considerations**

The Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency sets the minimum weather conditions and distance from waterbodies that must be followed when applying vegetation control products.

Products cannot be applied if the wind speed is greater than eight kilometers per hour or if the temperature is higher than 28°C. Products also cannot be applied within 10 meters of sensitive freshwater habitats.

**Extra Safety Precautions**

As an additional measure to ensure that vegetation control products are only applied to the ballast area, CP requires all contractors to use shrouded booms on their equipment. This feature ensures the spray is directed downwards and does not drift off CP's right-of-way.

**Q: How are vegetation control products approved in Canada?**

In Canada, all vegetation control products undergo review by the Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency. The products are evaluated for their effectiveness in controlling weeds, impact on the environment, and safety to people (both those who will be applying the products on a regular basis and those who could be neighbours to areas sprayed).

As part of a product's approval, Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency sets limits on:

- product quantities that can be used
- how close to sensitive environmental areas the product can be applied
- how long people have to wait before entering an area which has been sprayed
- what safety equipment the people applying the product need to wear

CP follows all of the requirements and limitations set by Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency when it applies vegetation control products.



**Q: Can the vegetation control products hurt people or animals?**

When applied in accordance to the limits set by Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency, the Agency has determined that vegetation control products used by CP will not hurt people or animals.

**Q: Are alternative methods available?**

CP has previously investigated other methods for controlling weeds in our ballast instead of spraying vegetation control products. Unfortunately, we have not found an alternative method that can meet the requirements set by Transport Canada's Rules Respecting Track Safety.

**Helpful links:**

Transport Canada Rules Respecting Track Safety  
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/railsafety/rules-tce54-830.htm>

Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management.html>

CP Rail – Vegetation Management  
<https://www.cpr.ca/en/community/living-near-the-railway/vegetation-management>