



We use herbicides safely



Newly planted trees must outgrow the weeds and brush around them to survive their first few years. That's why some forest landowners use herbicides, as safely and sparingly as possible.

Herbicides keep weeds and brush in check. This gives seedlings a head start to grow into a new forest.

Herbicides are usually only needed in the first few years of tree growth. Throughout Oregon, forest herbicides account for just 4 percent of all chemicals used for timber and agriculture production.

Now, that's a good reason to be Forest Proud.

Herbicide use is heavily regulated

Limiting chemical use

Foresters must follow many state and federal regulations when using herbicides. These rules help protect people, fish and drinking water.

Herbicides can't be used near streams that have fish or that supply municipal drinking water. Aerial herbicide application is illegal when the weather could cause drift.

Regulating herbicides

Herbicide use in Oregon is regulated by the following state and federal agencies:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Water Resources Department

Be proud

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Helping trees grow

Photo: Bruce Alber

Herbicides are typically applied to a forest stand just two to four times over 40 or 50 years. As trees grow, the weeds die off naturally from lack of sunlight.



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