

ITEM #0952051A – CONTROL AND REMOVAL OF INVASIVE VEGETATION

Description: This work shall include the development and implementation of an Invasive Vegetation Removal Plan (IVRP) to outline the materials, labor, and equipment the Contractor plans to use for the complete eradication and treatment of the invasive vegetation. The work shall also include the identification, excavation, removal, and off-Site disposal of unwanted vegetation as indicated on the plan sheets, permits or as directed by the Engineer.

All invasive vegetation listed on the following websites will be subject to eradication:

- Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) Invasive Plants Council (http://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) New England District Compensatory Mitigation Guidance Appendix K (http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/portals/74/docs/regulatory/Mitigation/2016_New_England_Compensatory_Mitigation_Guidance.pdf)

All vegetation designated for removal shall be eradicated in its entirety in accordance with the IVRP submitted by the Contractor and approved by the Engineer. Certain situations may require the full and complete mechanical excavation of invasive vegetation including its entire root system. The use of herbicides will not be permitted between the dates of October 1 and May 31.

Materials: All herbicides shall be registered for the species being treated and shall be formulated as applicable for target-species foliar treatment, cut surface, or injection applications. Where work in or immediately adjacent to wetlands is necessary, the product label(s) for any chemical/adjutant formulation applied must indicate that the formulation is approved for aquatic environments.

Construction Methods:

1. IVRP: Prior to any ground disturbance within the Project limits, the Contractor shall submit an IVRP to the Engineer for review and approval. Within 30 days of receipt of the submittal, the Engineer will notify the Contractor whether the IVRP is approved, rejected or requires modifications by the Contractor. If any part of the plan is not approved, the Contractor shall promptly make any necessary changes and re-submit the entire plan for approval. The entire plan must be approved in writing prior to beginning any work on Site. In all cases, mechanical means shall be considered before the use of herbicides. If mechanical means is neither feasible nor recommended, an explanation must be provided in the IVRP. All removal methods shall prevent the spread of seeds – no mowing or “Brush Hog” equipment will be allowed. The approved methods must be capable of total removal and eradication of all identified invasive species in the designated areas throughout the Contract and the 1-Year Plant Establishment Period.

The IVRP shall include a schedule and outline with the following information:

- 1) The Contractor’s methods of determining invasive vegetation surveyed limits, including:
 - a. Stake out the limits prior to the initial treatment
 - b. Maintain a record of the staked limits throughout the life of the Contract
- 2) Identification of the type(s) of invasive species present within the field surveyed limits
- 3) A marked up plan sheet outlining the invasive species limits and identifying the types of invasive species present within those limits and total square yards of proposed removal

- 4) For each species present on-Site, the following shall be described:
 - a. Methods to eradicate specific invasive plant species for the life of the Contract (e.g. mechanical, herbicide, etc.) shall include any initial, intermediate and 1-Year Plant Establishment Period Treatment eradication methods for each plant species
 - b. Types and concentrations of any herbicides to be used, including any adjuvants, SDS sheets, types of tools or machinery to be used
 - c. Schedules showing dates and eradication methods for the initial, intermediate, and 1-Year Plant Establishment Period Treatments. This schedule must take into consideration stage construction, the time period required between herbicide application, and the physical removal of the target species wherever such methodology is employed
- 5) All invasive species are considered controlled materials and are to be taken off-Site to an approved disposal facility. For disposal methods:
 - a. Provide address of location, current permits / letters from the town authorizing such activity and a Site map (complete with regulated areas)
 - b. Wood chips from invasive species are not allowed to be stockpiled or reused on-Site
 - c. Wood chipping on-Site will be allowed if temporarily stored in a properly contained enclosure and removed at the end of the treatment cycle
 - d. Invasive plants shall not be buried on-Site
- 6) Proof of CT DEEP licensure for herbicide application
- 7) A description of safety equipment required
- 8) Procedures for handling chemical spills

Where certain species of invasive vegetation are present and identified on the plan sheets, permits, or as identified in the field by the Engineer, the removal via bulk mechanical excavation of such vegetation and the underlying soils may be required as directed. The approved method must be capable of the removal of all soil to a depth where invasive plant material and root system is no longer evident, or as directed by the Engineer.

Whether the Contractor's method of removal is by mechanical excavation or cutting and spraying of herbicides, invasive species must be removed separately from clearing and grubbing operations and disposed at an approved location as described in the Contractor's IVRP.

No equipment or vehicles other than that required to complete the work will be permitted in the areas designated for invasive vegetation removal. Any equipment used to process invasive vegetation, such as chippers and transport vehicles, must be cleaned prior to further use.

Any invasive species control and removal work performed throughout the duration of the Contract that causes damage or soil disturbance shall be repaired at the Contractor's expense within 7 days. It is the Contractor's responsibility to identify additional areas of concern for invasive vegetation within the limits of the Project, notify the Engineer, and to amend the IVRP. The Contractor shall be responsible to identify invasive vegetation at all times of the year and to prepare a plan for its eradication without assistance.

All treatments, with the exception of an initial mechanical excavation of invasive species, will not be allowed outside of the optimal growing season between the dates of October 1 and May 31.

Herbicide applications will not be permitted during any rain event or during windy conditions. Broadcast or uncontrolled spray application will not be permitted and care must be taken to avoid contacting non-target native species. If any non-target native species to remain within the Project limits are inadvertently treated with herbicide and perish, the Contractor will be responsible to replace in-kind species at no cost to the State.

Remove all twining vines in treetops to the greatest extent possible without damaging the branches of the supporting desired vegetation. Cut and remove vines overtopping tree canopies to the extent practical. Climbing spikes will not be permitted for aerial work.

The Contractor shall also:

- 1) Maintain the labels for herbicides being used in his/her possession
- 2) Conduct all herbicide formulations and applications, including the addition of appropriate surfactants and other adjuvants, in strict conformance with the manufacturer's recommendation and per requirements of regulatory agencies
- 3) Maintain a written record of herbicide application, including the formulation, concentration, area treated, and date for each application. The records are to be provided by the commercial applicator and submitted to the Engineer following each treatment

Flush cut brush and trees shall not be more than 2 inches above the ground line. Prune out any branches on non-treatment plants that are damaged during removal of vegetation. All corrective pruning shall conform to the National Arborists Association Pruning Standards.

Wherever removal operations result in exposed soils, disturbed areas shall be vegetatively stabilized with the appropriate seed mix and protected with hay, cellulosic fiber mulch, or erosion control matting.

Once the IVRP is approved, a field review shall be scheduled for the Contractor and Engineer to review the limits of invasive species removal (surveyed and flagged by the Contractor prior to the meeting), the specific species required to be removed, and the Contractor's submitted invasive species removal plan. At this time, the Engineer may identify additional invasive species or designate additional areas for removal that are not included with the Contractor's submitted IVRP.

If changes are required to the approved IVRP during the life of the Contract, these changes shall be documented by the Contractor and resubmitted to the Engineer for review and approval a minimum of 10 days prior to beginning of the additional work associated with the change. The Contractor shall provide a 10 day work notice to the Engineer prior to proceeding with each treatment.

2. Treatments: The treatment schedule below may be modified based on field conditions at the discretion of the Engineer. The Contractor shall provide a 10 day work notice to the Engineer prior to proceeding with each treatment. In all cases, each treatment must be reviewed once the work is performed, and accepted before payment is made for that treatment stage.

Initial Treatment: Shall commence at the beginning of the Contract time, prior to clearing and grubbing activities. Any invasive species found within a proposed cut slope shall be fully eradicated to the satisfaction of the Engineer prior to any earth work operations. After the

completion of the initial treatment, the work must be reviewed and accepted by the Engineer prior to any earth excavation in that area. If herbicide is the initial treatment method, a minimum of 14 days is required prior to clearing and grubbing operations, so the herbicide application can take effect.

Intermediate Treatment(s): Shall be conducted during the optimal growing season between the dates of June 1 and September 30 for invasive species up to and including 10 days prior to plant installation or at the end of the Project if no landscaping plan is in the Contract. Optimal treatment times may be specific to the species being treated and this must be considered and documented when developing the Invasive Vegetation Removal Plan. Several treatments may be required to treat all species that are present.

1-Year Plant Establishment Period Treatment: Treatments as needed or as directed by the Engineer shall be conducted throughout the 1-Year Plant Establishment Period or when required under another Contract item.

Method of Measurement: This work will be measured for payment by the number of square yards of invasive vegetation identified, surveyed, treated and eradicated as required including any required re-treatment of any regrowth or new growth. No additional payment will be made for subsequent treatments. The area for removal will be surveyed and flagged prior to treatment and measured. After a review of the surveyed limits, the Engineer may designate additional areas for removal that are not shown on the plans. These additional areas will be measured for payment and included as part of the Contract work.

Where selective removal is required, the square yards of the drip line of the invasive vegetation will be measured for payment.

Basis of Payment: This work will be paid for at the Contract unit price per square yard for "Control and Removal of Invasive Vegetation." This payment shall include all labor, surveys, materials, tools, and equipment necessary for limits of the invasive area(s); maintenance of the limits throughout the Project; species identification; and cutting, excavation, treating, re-treating, removal, and off-Site disposal of designated invasive plant material. Off-Site disposal of residue shall include the loading, transport, dumping, and fees associated with legal off-site disposal.

- Upon approval of the required IVRP, the Contractor will receive a payment equal to 10% of the estimated Contract value
- Upon initial herbicide or mechanical removal treatment methods as it is described in the IVRP, the Contractor will receive a payment equal to 20% of all areas receiving treatment
- Upon successful completion of the initial treatment period, as determined during the review by the Engineer, the Contractor will receive a payment equal to 20%
- Upon successful completion of the intermediate treatment period as determined during the Site review by the Engineer, the Contractor will receive a payment equal to 20%
- Upon successful completion of the 1-Year Plant Establishment Period covering all treated areas on the Project (or the last treatment for those Projects which may not include a 1-Year Plant Establishment Period), the Contractor will receive final payment equal to the measured areas in place and treated, less any previous payments

Where bulk excavation is required for removal, this work shall be covered under the Contract Item "Earth Excavation" for all excavation in excess of 2 feet. All other vegetation not designated as invasive vegetation shall be removed in compliance with the Item "Clearing and Grubbing" in accordance with Section 2.01.

Vegetative stabilization of disturbed areas will be paid for under the respective Contract Items: "Turf Establishment," "Wetland Grass Establishment," or "Conservation Seeding for Slopes."

Pay Item	Pay Unit
Control and Removal of Invasive Vegetation	s.y.