



April 29th, 2024

Subject: 2024 SRCD *Phragmites* / Pest Weed Control Program

Dear Landowner:

Please read this letter carefully. It contains all the information needed to participate in this year's program. Application deadline is June 7, 2024.

The SRCD is in the process of setting up the 2024 Pest Weed Control Program. **This year there is no cost share for this program.** The spray program is primarily for the control of *Phragmites*, although other problem vegetation may be considered.

The program will include hand application as well as aerial spraying with a helicopter. SRCD will coordinate aerial spraying for those ownerships that wish to participate. **Landowners will be billed for the actual helicopter time used to aerial spray their property and for a portion of the chemical used for the aerial spraying program, along with any chemical ordered for hand application.**

To facilitate accurate chemical purchase, SRCD needs to know how much chemical landowners need for hand spraying. A good estimate to use is 1 gallon of chemical for every acre to be sprayed. For the aerial spraying program, the estimate of 1 gallon of chemical per acre to be sprayed will be used as well. If you wish to participate in the aerial spray program, you must provide SRCD with a detailed map showing *Phragmites* patch location and an estimate of the total acreage of *Phragmites* to be aerial sprayed. This can be done by using Google Earth, which has a tool to get patch size in acres. This information is essential to the bulk chemical purchase and the aerial spray program, so if you need assistance, please contact your Water Manager.

Using the form provided, indicate your interest in participating in this year's program and submit your *Phragmites* spray request (list hand vs. aerial spraying acreage separately) by **June 7, 2024, application deadline.**

Note: For planning purposes, you can estimate \$30 to \$40 per gallon for Gly Star Plus (for terrestrial use only), and \$70 to \$80 per gallon for an aquatic approved glyphosate herbicide (for both aquatic and terrestrial use). At this time, we do not know the brand that the supplier will have. The helicopter runs around \$1650 per hour. Most aquatic approved herbicides do not contain a surfactant, so if you decide to get the aquatic approved herbicide there is an additional cost of surfactant.

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We use LI 700 as a surfactant at an estimated cost of \$55 per gallon (each gallon will treat 32 acres). The smallest amount of LI 700 you can get is 1 gallon. Ammonium sulfate is used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the chemical treatment. Ammonium sulfate is a fertilizer, but in this treatment, it is used as a water treatment to bind to any minerals in the water so that they do not bind with the active ingredient in the herbicide and is available to work on the target weed. We will be using ammonium sulfate in the aerial spraying program, and it will be available to order for the hand application program. Ammonia Sulfate (AMS) runs \$11 per gallon and comes in 2.5-gallon containers.

HAND APPLICATION: Gly Star Plus or the aquatic approved glyphosate will be available in 2.5 and 30-gallon containers. **Note: For the aquatic approved glyphosate orders, we will order the correct amount of LI 700 unless specifically asked not to.**

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT ITEMS (hand application):

- Chemical application: **Due to regulations, this year landowners will be required to sign a statement that they are the landowner for the property and only Landowners will be handling and applying the chemical obtained under this program.**
- Chemical delivery: After the chemical is delivered to SRCD, landowners are required to pick up their chemical from the SRCD in a timely manner. You will have 3 weeks to pick up your chemical. You will be billed for your order when the chemical is picked up or delivered.
- Chemical use reporting: Landowners that purchase chemicals through this program are required to report to SRCD the amount of chemical used, and the acreage sprayed each month until the chemical you purchased is exhausted. Three failures to report this information will disqualify you from future participation in this program and jeopardize the future of this program for all Marsh landowners spraying chemicals under SRCD's Operator Identification Number. Landowners are responsible for keeping detailed records of the chemical used with EPA number (on chemical label), chemical application date and applicator's name (Must Be A Landowner), size and location of areas treated, name of property owner, and commodity treated (wetlands). The records must be kept by the landowner for 2 years after the application date (**SRCD will provide a form when you pick up your chemical**).

AERIAL SPRAY: The aerial spray program will be initiated in July/August depending on *Phragmites* growth stage and suitable weather conditions. SRCD will coordinate a helicopter spray program for areas that are too large to be effectively sprayed by hand. Roundup Custom will be applied by aerial spraying even though there will be **No aerial spraying over water, managed wetlands must be dry.** SRCD will oversee the program by coordinating helicopter staging areas, and flight paths between participants. This coordination will assist in reducing the cost of aerial spraying.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT ITEMS (aerial spray):

- Phragmites patch location: The longer the pilot must fly to find patches, the higher the cost. Patches must be accurately mapped. Please send a detailed map indicating Phragmites patch location and estimated total acreage of patches. Accurate estimates are critical for the purchase of chemical and we will only treat the acreage total you request even if there is additional acreage on the property.
- Landowner acreage estimates: The pilot will record flight time and the amount of herbicide used on each property for accurate billing.
- Landowner consent: Landowners wishing to participate in the aerial spray program shall authorize SRCD to conduct the spraying on their property. This form requests the landowner state the maximum amount he is willing to pay. SRCD will attempt to cap expenses when the maximum amount is reached, but SRCD can't determine all program expenses until treatment is complete at multiple sites. If SRCD determines that we are approaching this financial limit spraying for that site will be terminated, even if the application is incomplete.
- SRCD recommends that you spray Phragmites when the plants are seeding out. Although SRCD cannot guarantee the results of spraying on each individual property, choosing the proper time to spray will increase the likelihood of success.

If you wish to participate in the program this year, please fill out and return the enclosed form to the **SRCD office by June 7, 2024**. An original map must be sent in if you plan on participating in the aerial spray program. **After the chemicals are ordered, no late requests will be accepted.** If you do not respond by **June 7, 2024**, you will not be included as a participant in this year's program.

Thank you for your continued interest in this program. If you have any questions, please contact SRCD at (707) 425-9302 or Tim Edmunds, Program Coordinator at (707) 426-2431 ext. 302.

Sincerely,



Steven Chappell
Executive Director,
Suisun Resource Conservation District

Enclosures (2)