

NEBRASKA'S ROADSIDE SEEDING PROGRAM

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Abstract: Rapid, reliable vegetation establishment is essential to Nebraska Department of Roads' roadside stabilization program. In the past 6 years, NDOR's Roadside Stabilization Unit has overhauled several aspects of its erosion control program, including its seeding program, to meet the requirements of its environmental permits and NDOR's vision for its roadside environments.

Actions used to improve re-vegetation success include: 1) selecting location-appropriate plant species for the seed mixtures, 2) conducting seeding operations concurrent with finish grading, and 3) evaluating post-construction vegetation development. These actions set a trajectory toward re-vegetation success, and allow prompt closure of environmental permits.

In addition, NDOR is funding research projects on Nebraska roadsides to discern 1) effects of selected soil amendments on vegetation establishment and soil movement, 2) improvements for post-construction soil fertility, and 3) the survivorship of seeded species several years after project completion. NDOR's goal in roadside re-vegetation is to attain resilient, attractive, and durable plant cover to endure the challenges of disturbance and climate while controlling soil erosion.