

**2nd International
Workshop on
Vegetation
Management**

**Maintenance
policy:
methods and legal
environment**

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TRAFIKVERKET
SWEDISH TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION

We help to develop society



The transport policy goals

The overall transport policy goal is to guarantee an effective transport supply system for citizens and the business community that is sustainable in the long term throughout the whole country

- Transport policy functional goal:
Availability
- Transport policy consideration goal:
Safety, environment and health



Our world

“Everything that is built has to be continuously checked, maintained and managed. It must be attractive, safe and sustainable”.

“Our work is to ensure that investments by Swedish Transport Administration deliver maximum benefit to the customer, service life and socio-economic gains. And to ensure that journeys for transport users can be made in an agreeable, safe, environment-friendly and planned way”.



Challenges in railway maintenance

- Worn-down railway network
- High traffic
- Great expectations
- Lack of alternatives to herbicides



Rail traffic increases

Rail traffic in Sweden has increased significantly in the last ten years, while the railway network has not been expanded to same degree.

Maintenance methods must therefore be fast and take as little track time as possible.

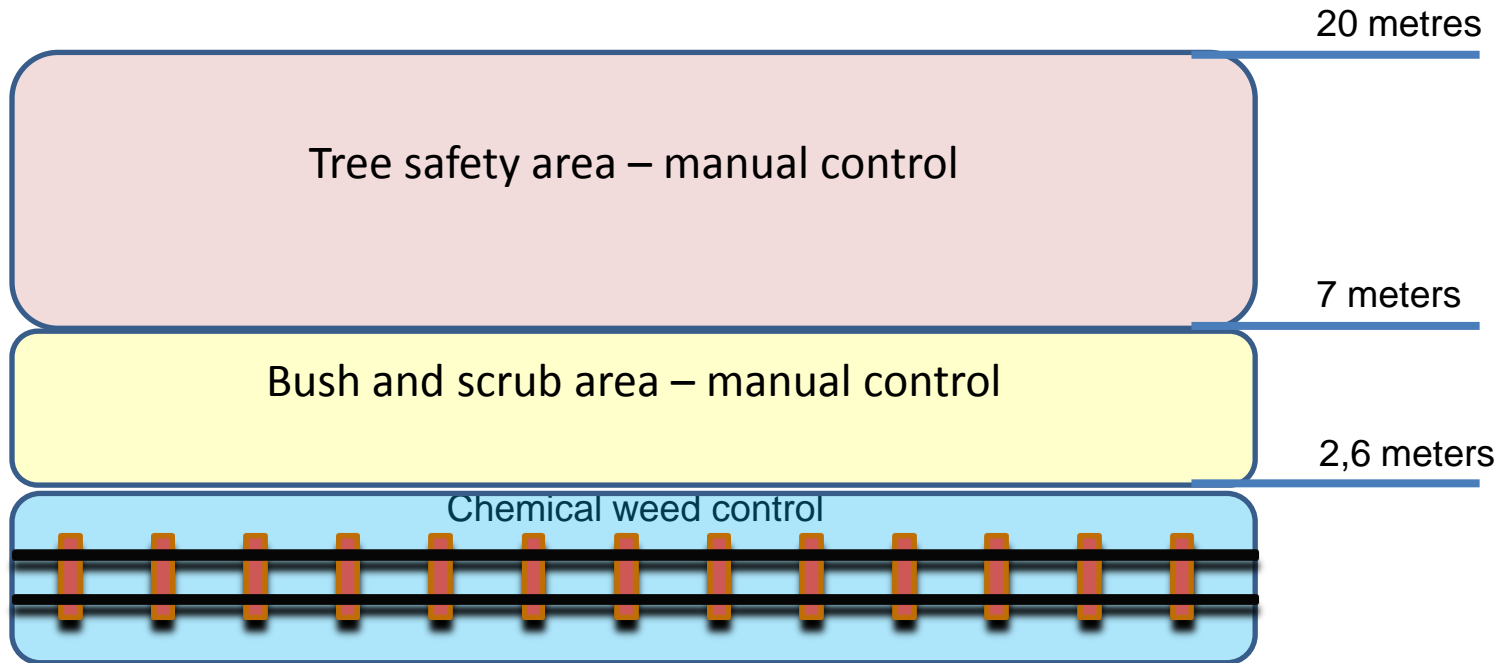
Today, herbicides are the only realistic method for weed control in railways.

The alternatives are less efficient and far too slow.

Alternative methods can be a complement, but not a total substitute



Different methods in and beside the track



Stakeholders

Municipalities

Counties

Swedish Environmental
Protection Agency

Swedish Board of Agriculture

Swedish Chemical Agency

Politicians

Trafikverket and other smaller
Infrastructure Managers

Train operators

Rail contractors

Passengers

The Public

Media

Improvements in Sweden

To improve relations and increase trust with authorities we have taken several measures

- Information meetings (why and how)
- Best practices
- Control program for groundwater
- Web maps for restricted areas (GIS – analysis)
- Research and development
- Inventory of wells close to tracks

The results of these measures have been very satisfactory. Our confidence in the authorities has increased and the work with weed control has been made easier.

Focus for the future

- Be transparent and explain how we work
- Use best practise
- Development
- High precision spraying
- Good documentation
- Work for good relations with authorities and other stakeholders

"Now we can finally remove Sauron's watchful eye from Trafikverkets chemical weed control program to other activities"

- quoted from a municipal environmental inspector...



Thank you

