

Integrated Vegetation Management Program: IVM & Stewardship Program

At Union Power Cooperative, we employ a systematic approach to vegetation management, which is known as our Integrated Vegetation Management Program. This approach reduces the need for herbicides and promotes healthy ecosystems in way of creating greater natural species diversity along our rights-of-way, with the added benefit of invasive species control. The desired outcome is the development of a vegetative species variety that is low-growing and lush that does not interfere with overhead powerlines or hamper access needs.



IVM is not the use of a single vegetation management tool, but rather the combination of management approaches to achieve a specific goal at a specific site. The management approaches include:

- Site assessment
- Control
- Evaluation
- Maintenance

The tools that can be used to achieve the goals can be one or a combination of the following formats:

- Chemical
- Cultural
- Manual
- Mechanical
- Biological

We encourage early successional landscapes including scrub land, field, and meadows, all of which, if left alone, are not stable. By managing and maintaining such landscapes in early successional communities, the environment is created for use by a host of animal and insect species.

IVM is an environmentally responsible means of combining chemical and mechanical treatment methods (mowing, side pruning, hand cutting, and herbicide applications) with an understanding of the stages of ecological succession and interspecies competition. The resulting right-of-way corridor is dominated by vegetation below economically damaging heights that could otherwise interfere with the delivery of electric service.

Stewardship Program:

For Homeowners wishing to turn the right-of-way access zone of their property into a pollinator and/or butterfly-friendly (ex. Monarch butterfly) habitat, we would be happy to discuss your ideas for the site! There are special adjustments we can make to prepare a site for habitat creation. Don't hesitate to call us at 704 220-0717 and ask for Wil Ortiz (Manager of Vegetation Management).