

## Sustainably Managing Invasive Species at DuPont™ Chesapeake Farms™

Fed by more than 150 tributaries flowing through a six-state area that includes urban population centers, industrial and agricultural lands, the Chesapeake Bay is often seen as a national focal point for lessons learned about challenging sustainability issues.

Beyond the health of the bay and interests of an increasingly conservation-minded public, a particular concern for this region is maintaining safety and reliability of its extensive infrastructure of roadways and utilities. It is a complex balancing act, made more urgent by state and federal regulations that govern maintaining rights of way in a sustainable manner, including controlling invasive weeds and brush and preserving native plant species.

It was with this backdrop that DuPont™ Chesapeake Farms™, near Chestertown, Md., hosted conservation leaders and land management professionals from around the country in mid-July in conjunction with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 2012 Legislative Conference.

Rick Johnstone, president, Integrated Vegetation Management Partners, Inc., was among the guest speakers, sharing his extensive experience maintaining utility rights of way. Johnstone walked participants through test plots and described best management practices for low-use-rate

herbicides for land management, including DuPont™ Viewpoint®, Streamline® and Perspective® herbicides.

### Encouraging Native Species

“Many people think we need to add more trees when considering conservation,” said Johnstone, “but organizations such as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey tell us we need more prairies to support native pollinators and birds.

“In fact, we have less than 1 percent of the native prairie in Maryland that we had 200 years ago. Brush and invasive weeds have crowded out much of the prairie. So accomplishing brush control with selective herbicides on utility rights of way and roadsides is also an opportunity to bring back native prairie plants.”

Johnstone showed several plots where herbicide treatments had been used in broadcast, spot and cut stubble basal treatments. “What’s interesting is that replanting native species was not necessary here. Simply controlling brush and trash trees such as sweet gum allowed the native grasses and wildflowers to return in as little as two years. In some cases, we saw the return of rare species.”

### Be Image-Conscious

Johnstone also discussed application timing and implications of working in the public eye. “Particularly with roadsides, be mindful of how herbicide brush control is going to look to the public. Fall application can look more natural than applications in the middle of the growing season.”

“Brush control should be about more than just avoiding power outages and fines from FERC. We can also provide additional sustainability benefits to native species and the public’s enjoyment of landscapes. In the West, there is a very practical benefit to brush control — maintaining rights of way by controlling mesquite and other brush can provide excellent firebreaks. And for state transportation departments, strategic application of selective herbicide can increase public safety and preserve tax dollars by reducing mowing cycles.”

Johnstone has participated in several trials using DuPont herbicides in multiple locations. If you are interested in testing strategic herbicide application techniques or viewing test plots, please contact your DuPont Land Management representative or contact Dan Zapotok at [Daniel.J.Zapotok@usa.dupont.com](mailto:Daniel.J.Zapotok@usa.dupont.com).

*(Left) Rick Johnstone of IVM Partners, Inc.*

