



Creek choked with invasive Himalayan blackberries

Reducing Flood Risks with Herbicides



The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) maintains approximately 75 miles of engineered flood control channels. Vegetation management is a primary component of reducing flood risks. Generally, the Water Agency removes unwanted vegetation by hand and with equipment, but may also employ selective herbicidal application.

Why does the Water Agency use herbicides?

The Water Agency applies herbicide (Roundup Custom™) to non-native species using targeted spot treatment techniques along some streams and waterways in an effort to manage vegetation and promote growth of native species. The application process generally takes place in early spring and resumes late in the fall, so as not to contaminate plants during the fruit-bearing summer months. Examples of non-native species include, but are not limited to, ivy, sprouting eucalyptus, and Himalayan blackberries.

How do herbicides affect plants and animals?

Roundup Custom™ is an herbicide intended for sprouted plant life. The product is designed to travel through the plant, move into the root system, and to leave no residue in the soil. The active ingredient, Glyphosate, inhibits the production of an enzyme that is vital to plant life. The product is approved for use in a variety of aquatic environments and is deemed non-hazardous according to California Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA). Roundup Custom™ toxicity levels are minimal in fish, invertebrates, algae/aquatic plants, arthropods, and soil-inhabiting invertebrates. In studies in which mammals were tested, results also concluded Roundup Custom™ to be non-toxic and essentially non-irritating.

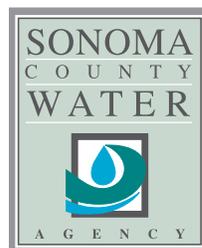
How are herbicides applied?

The Water Agency's use of Roundup Custom™ is in accordance with labeling instructions, as well as permits obtained from the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner. In addition, Water Agency staff are vigorously trained in areas of safety and species identification and are in compliance with both OSHA and Sonoma County Water Agency standards and procedures.

For more information on our Stream Maintenance Program:

- Visit our website at: www.sonomacountywater.org/stream-maintenance-program
- Request a brochure by calling the agency at (707) 547-1927 or download it as a PDF from our website.
- Contact Jon Niehaus, Stream Maintenance Coordinator at (707) 521-1845

We appreciate your time and cooperation during our maintenance work.



Find us at www.sonomacountywater.org



Securing our Future by Investing in our Water Resources, Environment & Community