Managing Roadsides for Native Plants and Pollinators: General Guidelines

Vegetation Management

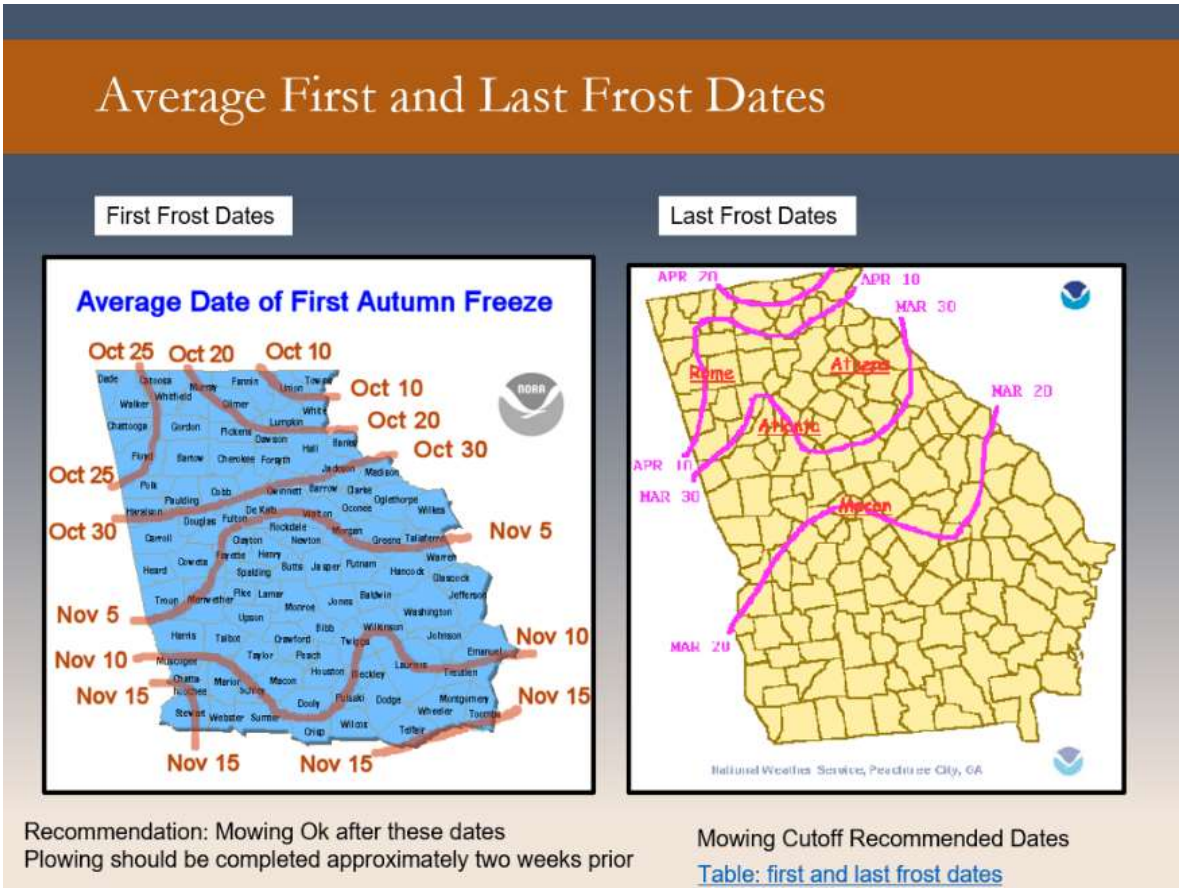
- **Mowing: Goal is for insects to move away from the mower into alternate habitat**

1. Location: Not everything needs mowing
    i. Targeted mowing (mow some species, but not all vegetation)
    ii. Patchy mowing (to create habitat reservoirs)
    iii. Partial (divide in strips; mow strips alternate years)

2. Timing.
    i. Frequency: Mow once yearly or every other year.
    ii. When: After 1- 2 hard frosts (see Average first and last frost diagram)
    iii. Time: Avoid early morning, dusk, and clouds. (Insects are inactive)
3. Method
    i. Height of cut = 10+ inches.
    ii. Use a flushing bar.

- **Plowing/ Disking**
    b. Recommendations tied to overwintering behavior.
    c. Ideal plow window **March – April**.
    d. Complete late plowing before the first frost **(September – October)**

- **Herbicide.**
    e. Keep records of timing and application methods.
    f. Avoid damage to non-target plants.
    g. Reduce herbicide exposure to pollinators.
        i. Mow before herbicide application (following mowing guidelines)
        ii. Focused hand spraying is best.
    h. Aim to use less toxic (for pollinators) herbicides.
    i. Formulations matter: Dry granular is less toxic than foliar sprays. Dust and microencapsulated are the most toxic.
    j. Prevent drift.
        i. Avoid breezy days.
        ii. Apply at least 12-24 hours before rainfall.



Vegetation Enhancement

1. Inventory species present. Spring pre-mow survey and fall survey. Repeat for three years.
2. Create site-appropriate management plans.
3. Promote healthy pollinator habitats by adding signs along roads and in kiosks.
4. Add plugs or use native seed mix.

Lighting in ROWs or Parking lots

1. Artificial lighting leads to night-flying pollinator declines
2. Limit the lumens/ lux (illumination in the area) to the minimum needed. There are guidelines.

3.. Lights should be useful, targeted, and no brighter than necessary.

*Please communicate these ROW guidelines for pollinators

Note: These are general recommendations and exceptions should be considered*