



**990 US Highway 12
Ortonville, MN 56278
320-849-1500**

Big Stone Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has the tools to help you manage your grassland(s). The district can help you control; noxious weeds, annual weeds, and invasive trees / shrubs by mowing with a batwing mower. We can also mow for your mid contract management that is required for lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

It is getting to be that time of year were newly planted grasslands should be mowed to help keep the weed competition down. Typically, a new seeding will need to be mowed a minimum of twice in the first year, if not three times, and once or twice in the second year. I wanted to let you know that Big Stone Soil and Water Conservation District can help you with this. The district has a 15-foot batwing mower to mow your grasslands for weed and tree control. We can also help you out on your mid-contract management for you Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands by mowing your CRP. The mower can mow shrubs and trees up to 4 inches in diameter. Weeds such as thistles should be mowed just as they start to flower. Our rates are as follows:

- Mobilization - \$100 per site or contract
 - Fields greater than 50 acres - \$18 per acre
 - Fields less than 50 acres - \$20 per acre
 - Minimum charge - 5 acres
 - Spot mowing – \$100 per hour
 - Minimum charge - 1 hour
- Note: heavy tree and or shrub areas may have additional charges added.

A few things to remember if you are going to mow yourself:

- Never mow lower than 10 inches in height, you don't want to mow native plants shorter than that in their first couple of growing seasons. If one mows shorter than that, all their doing is opening up more sunlight to annual and noxious weeds, and cutting off the seed heads of the native grasses and wildflowers. All you want to do is cut off the flowering heads on weeds.
- Never mow with a sickle or haybine mower. Sickle and haybine mowers leave the un-mulched up plants in thick duff layers on top of the growing vegetation, which shades out the natives or prevents them from germinating because of the lack of sunlight. Ultimately, this will cause much more harm than good. Basically, it will kill the grass and weeds will take over.

Contact Big Stone Soil and Water Conservation District today if you would like us to schedule us to mow your site(s). Our phone number is: 320-849-1500, or email adam.kleinschmidt@co.big-stone.mn.us