

BRUSH DISPOSAL — PROBLEM TO PROFIT

ANTI-POLLUTION LEGISLATION restricting burning has had a positive effect for the maintenance section of the Ohio Department of Transportation, as it has for many other states. What looked like a real brush disposal problem after EPA regulations went into effect has proven beneficial for the department.

"Instead of having to haul cut brush and tree limbs in loose, bulky loads to a landfill site or a burning station," said O. Carson Barklow, "we use Wayne Brush Chippers." Barklow is Assistant Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance for Ohio's Department of Transportation.

The department is divided into 12 districts. This past year each district purchased a Wayne Brush Chipper for maintaining highway rights of way, and to dispose of nuisance brush and low overhanging tree limbs thus improving vehicular clearance and sight distance for safer driving. A positive side benefit in the use of chippers is the creation of mulch now used on the roadside. Using a standard five-cubic-yard dump truck, which spreads salt in winter months, chipper chutes are adjusted to throw chips directly into the truck and they are then taken to a stockpile area.

Each crew can fill as many as three truckloads of



Ohio's Department of Transportation has found brush disposal with Wayne Brush Chippers to have many beneficial side effects.

chips a day. Chips are allowed to decompose for several months and are used extensively in the state highway landscaping program. In some instances, the chips are directly distributed by the chipper back onto the soil to cover bare spots where seed hasn't taken, or in natural wooded areas.

"The wood chips provide an excellent base for new growth," said Barklow, "and the mulch also helps prevent erosion by retaining the soil. One advantage of this system is that unlike straw, chips are more dense and don't blow away as readily."

The Department of Transportation maintains 16,000 miles of rural, state and federal highways throughout Ohio's 88 counties.

"Increased productivity of brush chippers has opened up a new phase of tree and brush disposal for the department," Barklow said. "The chippers have plenty of power and their safety features are an important factor with the extensive work load of our department." In addition to using their Wayne Chippers for highway clearance, the department also uses them in roadside rest area maintenance, providing safer, more esthetic rest areas for the traveling public.



After chips are spread, fertilizer is broadcast over the top and the area is seeded.

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