

WEEDS and TURF

PEST CONTROL

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A fixed nozzle on the bed of Naugatuck's demonstration spray unit covers a 20-foot swath with a spray of MH-30, new growth retardant.

"Mowing" Spans of Grass with Retardant MH-30

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Inside demonstration truck, Naugatuck's Paul Bohne shows how remote controls are used to regulate spray equipment. Note low-speed speedometer mounted outside the cab, just to right of driver's head.

SPRAY TRUCKS equipped with hydraulically operated booms rolled along scores of miles of Massachusetts highways this spring, spraying the roadside grass. Motorists who observed the operation probably thought the highway maintenance men were killing weeds. Actually, that observation was only half correct. The spray crews were knocking out weeds all right, but with another ingredient in their combination spray they were "chemically mowing" the roadside grass.

Retarding the growth of grass along its highways with a chemical is now a regular highway

maintenance practice in Massachusetts. The spray crews working this spring were finishing up a 440-mile grass growth-retarding spray program which the state got underway in the fall of 1961. The project's completion this spring meant that Massachusetts was now chemically retarding roadside grass growth on better than 1 out of 6 miles of its 2,400-mile highway system.

While this is the most extensive use of "chemical mowing" by a state, Massachusetts is far from alone in the application of this new roadside maintenance technique. Approximately 18 other