



Roadsides are a boon to pheasant production in MN. They comprise only 2% of the total land area in the pheasant range, yet they can produce 25%-50% of the chicks. Peak pheasant hatch is June 7-15. Hens will make 1-4 attempts at nesting. By Aug. 1 about 90% of the hatch is complete.

Native prairie grasses and flowers in roadsides enhance wildlife habitat, provide long-term maintenance savings, increase water filtration, help catch snow and improve aesthetics.

For more information on
Roadsides For Wildlife
Contact: Carmelita Nelson, DNR
Roadsides for Wildlife Coordinator
Carmelita.nelson@dnr.state.mn.us
or 651-259-5014

For More Information on
Living Snow Fences
Contact: Dan Gullickson,
MnDOT Forester
daniel.gullickson@dot.state.mn.us
or 651-284-3763

To view additional sources of
information and success stories
visit the following websites:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/roadsidesforwildlife

www.livingsnowfence.dot.state.mn.us

www.dot.state.mn.us/environment

www.uni.edu/irvm

www.iowalivingroadway.com

www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/vegmgt



Roadsides
represent over
500,000 acres
of permanent
grassland in
Minnesota's
pheasant range.



500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
www.dnr.state.mn.us

Roadsides for Wildlife Objectives:

- Reduce the disturbance (haying) of roadside vegetative cover until after August 1.
- Incorporate native prairie species in roadside plantings.
- Protect existing native prairie remnants along roadsides.
- Explain the benefits of a diverse and undisturbed roadside environment.

How can you become involved in roadside management?

- If you are a rural landowner, consider how you can improve management of your adjacent roadsides for wildlife.
- Encourage other landowners and local road authorities to delay or eliminate annual mowing in roadsides. Between Aug 1 and Sept. 1 is the best time to mow. Spot-spray or spot-mow troublesome weed patches.
- Offer local road authorities cost share assistance and/or management assistance in the incorporation of new or re-vegetated roadsides projects in your organization's area.
- Talk to local road authorities about roadside management plans and opportunities to partner on roadside projects. For example, helping develop and manage living snow fence projects in your area can provide significant wildlife habitat, and increased highway safety benefits.
- Protect any native prairie remnants along roadsides from spraying and unnecessary disturbance. Signs available.

If properly managed, our one-half million acres of roadsides could produce twice as many ring-necks as they now do. Wildlife biologists have counted as many as 3 nests/acre in managed roadsides. Each spring and summer, however, mowing, spraying, burning, off-road vehicles or some type of farming encroachment disturbs 40-70% of the nesting habitat in roadsides. About half our roadsides are mowed in May-July when most hens are nesting.

Mowing a strip along the shoulder is seldom harmful to wildlife, because most nest in the ditch bottom or back slope. Roadside vegetation left undisturbed year-round is especially attractive to wildlife. However, it may need mowing every 3-5 years in late summer to control brush.

Roadsides benefit more than 40 species of birds and mammals, including pheasants.

The DNR can provide roadside signs and technical assistance to landowners and road authorities concerning seeding mixtures, planting techniques, and proper management.