

Cameron Park Airport Vegetation Control Plan – September 25, 2023

Need: consistent and regular mowing and weeding to keep ahead of vegetation growth

Priorities:

- Keep signs visible
- Keep lights clear
- Provide Defensible space along fences and runway
- Keep Taxi-ways clear
- Provide Runway weed incursion abatement (along cracks)
- Keep Windsock and light shed clear of weeds
- Keep tie down area free of weeds

Available equipment:

1. Swisher tow behind mower – good for long stretches on sides of runway, inefficient for large acreage, and is not very maneuverable. Uses 4 wheeler which the airport owns
2. Walk behind mowers – powered, good for ditches, inefficient for lights and taxi-ways (slow, not maneuverable)
3. Tow behind flail mower – good for acreage, requires tractor rental and/or contractor to use
4. Weed sprayers (backpack and tow behind)

Proposed Vegetation Control Plan

3 tier Approach:

1. Regular (weekly) weeding around lights, signs with walk behind or riding lawn mower - zero turn type for maneuverability (do something every week, cover all of airport every 2 months)
2. Regular (monthly) mowing around taxiways, runway (weed incursion), fire break with swisher tow-behind, weed spraying tie-down area and edges of taxiways, around lights
3. Twice a year acreage mowing with flail mower. Rent tractor or identify contractor to do work (May, October)

Plan and Schedule

5 month summer schedule (May thru September).

May – acreage, weeding windsock, around gates, parking lot, spray tiedown area, around lights

June-Aug – weekly spot mowing and weeding (layout schedule for specific zones, cover entire airport every 2 months)

September

- Cops, Props, and Rodders preparation

October

- cleanup for winter, ditches, acreage,

Need mowing crew identified, rotation, weekly assignments/summer schedule

Need big mowing events on calendar with minimum crew size, signups

Specific projects

1. Weeds growing in cracks – runway, taxi-ways
 - a. Spray
 - b. Weed-trimmer
 - c. Cleanout/burn
 - d. Fill crack with fine gravel, top with asphalt sealer
2. Lights and signs
 - a. Spray
 - b. Weed-trimmer
 - c. Mow around
3. Firebreaks/fence lines
 - a. Swisher mow along fence, outboard of lights along runway
4. Acreage
 - a. Flail mower and rented tractor for acreage

Proposed Additional Equipment

Currently, renting a tractor and/or hiring a company (estimate \$2,000 per use, 3x per year would be \$6,000) to come in and mow. This does not provide regular and responsive weed control. Swisher and walk behinds are not adequate to provide precise mowing around lights, signs.

Recommend: purchase zero turn riding lawnmower to facilitate regular mowing around lights and signs, and supplement swisher.

- Quality machine with 50+ inch deck is about \$5,000
- Should last 5 years with maintenance – 1000/yr net costs
- Reduces need for renting tractor and wear and tear on the swisher
Easier and mor accessible for volunteers to use
- Grass Valley Airport uses only a couple of zero turn professional quality mowers

Trim areas

- around lights
- around wind tee
- around signs

Spot mowing

- along edges of runway and taxiways
- Around ditches
- along fence

Acreage mowing

- Over-run areas
- between fence and runway

