

Every Plant Tells a Story

Technology Helps Us Read It

Environmental Message
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Did You Know? Every plant growing on a utility right-of-way tells us something about the site. Some indicate healthy, stable plant communities. Others reveal invasive species encroachment, wet soils, wildfire risk, or potential hazards to workers. Today, artificial intelligence and mobile plant-identification tools can help vegetation professionals recognize these clues more quickly and learn directly from the landscape.

From Plant Photo to Informed Action



Photograph the Plant Capture clear images of the entire plant and several identifying features, such as leaves, bark, stems, flowers, or fruit. Multiple views provide better information for both AI tools and human verification.



Identify the Clues AI-powered tools can analyze photos of leaves, bark, flowers, fruit, and growth form to suggest possible species. This can help crews investigate unfamiliar plants and learn directly from the landscape.



Verify the Results AI identification is a starting point—not a final answer. Confirm suggestions using multiple plant features, reputable references, and expert guidance when safety or management decisions depend on accurate identification.



Put the Knowledge to Work Accurate plant identification helps vegetation professionals:

- Distinguish compatible plants from incompatible vegetation.
- Detect invasive species before infestations expand.
- Recognize plants that may present worker health or safety hazards.
- Protect beneficial vegetation that supports habitat, stabilizes soil, and helps suppress incompatible trees.
- Select management practices appropriate for the species and site.

Next-generation technology is changing how we collect information and interpret conditions on the ROW. When we pair these tools with human expertise, we can read the landscape more efficiently and make better decisions for reliable electric service, worker safety, and environmental stewardship.

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