

Improvement of the Environment along Railway Lines

Restricting use of herbicides[☆]

Safe train operations require regular removal of weeds along railway lines. While we generally remove them manually, we also use a certain amount of herbicide. We keep the usage of herbicides to a minimum in both volume and range of use. When selecting herbicides for use, we select those from the safest of the three levels of toxicity to humans and animals, and from Category A, the safest of the five levels of toxicity to fish.

We continue to observe the rules in place in order to keep our impact on the surrounding environment to a minimum, as with our initiative to postpone the spraying of herbicides when conditions on the scheduled day are not satisfactory for spraying. In FY 2012, 203 tons of herbicides were used.

Harmony with the landscape

Given that construction of a large-scale railway facility or its remodeling greatly affects the local area and surrounding environment, JR East endeavors to harmonize its completed facilities with surrounding landscapes and natural environments. In the fiscal year ended in March 2012, the Agatsumagawa Bridge No. 3 received the Tanaka Award (for excellent bridge work or bridge engineering) from the Japan Society of Civil Engineers, in recognition of a landscape in harmony with the surrounding environment and the national road parallel to the bridge. Our efforts are indeed well recognized outside of the company.



Agatsumagawa Bridge No. 3