

Recently Banned Pesticides

Do not buy products containing Chlorpyrifos (Dursban™, Lorsban™) or Diazinon, as the EPA has concluded they pose unacceptable health risks.

New Massachusetts Pesticide Law

To protect children, all schools in the state must now restrict pesticide use. It's up to you to protect them at home.

Herbicides in Compost Warning

Do not compost grass clippings treated with the herbicides clopyralid (in Confront™) or picloram, or allow grass clippings from treated lawns to go to municipal compost facilities. The resulting compost can kill plants.



This brochure is funded in part by grants from the

Toxics Use Reduction Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell,

and the

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

References for information presented in this brochure are available, along with more information, at:

www.ci.wellesley.ma.us/nrc



Holliston Board of Health

703 Washington Street, Holliston, MA 01746

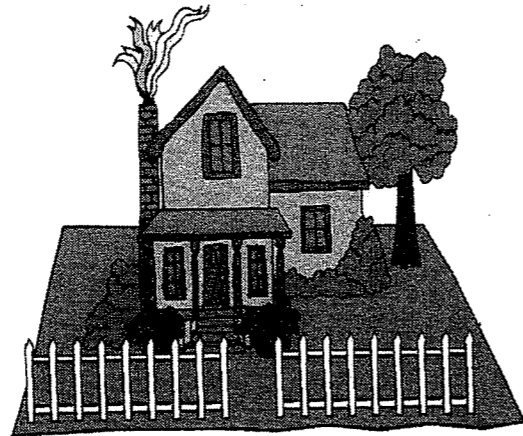
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http://www.townofholliston.us/board_of_health.htm

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HEALTHY LAWN AND LANDSCAPES



**Massachusetts
Pesticide Awareness
Collaborative**



**Improving Public Health In
Massachusetts**

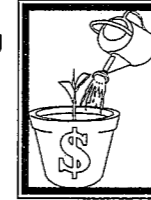
Imagine your kids playing on grass that isn't treated with poisons...

Your kids can play on grass where you never need a "Keep off, Pesticide Application" warning sign.



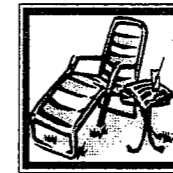
Imagine watering costs cut in half!

Healthy soils with thriving micro-organisms lead to deep-rooted grass. Deep roots require less watering, less fertilizing, and save you money.



Imagine no mowing!

Turn part of your lawn into a landscape with a diversity of native plants, hardy flowers, ground covers, trees and shrubs. Low maintenance, native plants include blueberries, azaleas, bearberry, dogwood and redbud trees.



Now is the time to make the move to non-toxic lawn care. For yourself, your children, your pets and the environment.

PESTICIDES ARE: GRUB CONTROL, WEED KILLER, FUNGUS TREATMENT, INSECT SPRAY, CRAB GRASS PREVENTER, INSECTICIDES, HERBICIDES, ETC.

Pesticides pose a risk to you.

Pesticide exposure in humans has been associated with birth defects, numerous cancers, Parkinson's disease and other neurological disorders, male infertility and immune system problems.

An EPA registration number does not mean safety. The health effects of most pesticide ingredients, their break-down products, and their interactions are not well known.

Lawn pesticides get carried indoors by shoes, paws and air currents. Once inside, pesticides linger in carpets, dust, toys and air. Away from sunlight and water, pesticides can persist for many months.

Pesticides contaminate drinking water. Use of pesticides in urban and suburban communities contributes significantly to contamination of our water supplies.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of pesticides. Children are at risk for birth defects, childhood cancers and behavioral problems when household and lawn pesticides are used.

Children are more at risk because of their size and behaviors. In a recent study of preschoolers, 99% had one or more pesticides in their bodies.

SIMPLE STEPS TO ORGANIC LAWN CARE

The easiest, most cost effective way to a beautiful, healthy lawn is to work with nature, not against it. A healthy lawn needs nutrients and microbe-rich soil to develop deep rooted, dense turf that competes successfully with weeds. Dense turf is beautiful and low maintenance. It naturally resists drought, insects and diseases.



Pesticides are not necessary for a beautiful lawn. In fact, they can do more harm than good. They kill the microbial life necessary for healthy soil and can kill the pest's natural enemies. This invites disease and insect infestation, which leads to more pesticide use and traps you in an unhealthy, costly chemical cycle.

Basic lawn care tips:

- ♣ Spread 1/4" compost, or sprinkle organic fertilizer, each fall.
- ♣ Seed with a mix of hardy grasses.
- ♣ Mow high! Keep mower blades sharp.
- ♣ Leave grass clippings on lawn as fertilizer.
- ♣ Water only when soil is dry 6" down. 1" water per watering.
- ♣ Overseed in the spring and fall.
- ♣ Strive for a soil pH around 6.8.



YEARLY SCHEDULE

March & April

Sharpen mower blades.
Raise mower blade to 3 inches.
Test soil: UMass Soil Testing Lab, 413-545-2311, www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest.
Add soil amendments based on soil test.
Re-seed bare patches, or apply corn gluten to prevent weed germination.
Always leave clippings on lawn to fertilize.



May and June

Check for weeds; pull out by hand.
Re-seed bare spots.
Monitor for insect pests.
If you have grub damage, spot treat with milky spore (once every ten years) and/or with beneficial nematodes (once yearly for 2 or 3 years).

August

You may allow lawn to go dormant during drought. It will green up after rain.



September and October

Best time to seed (generously).
Fertilize if needed (sparingly) or top dress with 1/4 inch compost.
Aerate if soil is compacted.
Lime if an autumn soil test finds pH lower than about 6.8.

November

Final mowing at 2 inches for easier leaf raking.



MANAGING YOUR LAWN SERVICE



- ◆ Specify mowing high with sharp blades.
- ◆ Request corn gluten and organic fertilizer instead of "Weed and Feed" products.
- ◆ Refuse routine application of pesticides.
- ◆ Beware if a lawn service tells you a chemical application is safe. Federal EPA regulations prohibit manufacturers from making pesticide safety claims, even if used as directed. All pesticides must be treated with caution.
- ◆ Never allow unidentified products to be used on your lawn. Request safety information and read it before application. Look up toxicity at www.pesticide.org.
- ◆ Be aware that chemicals listed as inert ingredients can be highly toxic.
- ◆ Take note: many pesticides persist in lawns and soil long after the posted 24-72 hours.
- ◆ Ask for an organic program. Know that an organic lawn can take up to 3 years to fully establish.

Local Organization

Toxics Use Reduction Institute
978-934-3275
www.turi.org

FIND OUT MORE

Overview and fact sheets on pesticide hazards & alternatives:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/about/index.htm>
<http://npic.orst.edu/npicfact.htm>
www.pesticide.org/factsheets.html

Look up health effects of a pesticide:

http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Search_Chemicals.jsp

To find an organic landscaper in your community:

www.organiclandcare.net

For courses, demonstration sites, and other resources:

<http://mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/lawnland.htm>
www.livinglawn.org
www.grassrootsinfo.org
<http://healthylawnsforhealthyfamilies.com/>

Books

Common Sense Pest Control by W.

Olkowski, S. Daar, and H. Olkowski, 1991

Handbook of Successful Ecological Lawn Care by Paul Sachs, 1996

Tiny Game Hunting by Hilary Klein and Adrian Wenner, 2001

