



## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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### A Message from the Wellesley Board of Health and the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

The [Wellesley Board of Health](#) and the [Wellesley Natural Resources Commission](#) want you to be informed about the dangers of toxic chemicals to children, pets, and the environment, and ask you to consider eliminating any unnecessary use of these chemicals on your property, just as the Town of Wellesley has.

#### Here are some important facts:

- Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and "weed and feed" are all pesticides.
- A growing body of evidence in the scientific literature shows that pesticide exposure can adversely affect neurological, respiratory, immune, and endocrine systems in humans, even at low levels.
- Children are especially sensitive to pesticide exposure because they take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and because they have vulnerable developing organ systems.
- Common lawn care pesticides contain chemicals that are known to pose a serious risk to your pet's health, including several types of cancer, respiratory and reproductive problems and endocrine disruption.
- Use of lawn pesticides in urban and suburban communities contributes to contamination of surface, groundwater and drinking water supplies.
- All lawn pesticides are toxic to aquatic organisms and most are toxic to birds.
- A 24-hour waiting period after application will not prevent exposure. Most pesticides persist in the turf and soil for months, not days. They get tracked indoors, washed into rivers, and leached into the groundwater.
- Mosquitoes are best controlled by eliminating standing water around your home. Do not use residential mosquito misters which contain neurotoxic and carcinogenic chemicals and have not been shown to be effective in controlling mosquitoes.
- Ticks and mosquitoes can be repelled from a yard using minimum risk pesticides, such as garlic-based products.

**For more information on pesticides and organic lawn care:**

- "Introduction to Organic Lawn Care and Yards, Plus a Checklist for an Eco-Friendly Property," by Sarah Little, Northeast Organic Farming Association, Organic Land Care Program  
[https://wellesleyma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19939/2016iolyfinalsingle\\_page\\_opt](https://wellesleyma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19939/2016iolyfinalsingle_page_opt)
- Beyond Pesticides [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org)
- "Protecting Your Pet from Pesticides" [www.grassrootsinfo.org/pdf/petcard.pdf](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org/pdf/petcard.pdf)
- "Establishing and Caring for an Organic lawn," fact sheet from Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
<http://www.mofga.org/Portals/2/Fact%20Sheets/FS%2007%20Lawn%20Care%20Web.pdf>
- American Academy of Pediatrics pesticide recommendations:  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Pesticides-Herbicides-and-Children.aspx>

**Show your pride in your healthy lawn**

As part of the NRC's continued Grow Green Wellesley Campaign, the NRC is inviting residents who are committed to eliminating chemical fertilizers and pesticide on their property to show their pride with a Healthy Yard sign like the one pictured below this spring.

The signs are 5" x 5" and you can get yours by emailing [nrc@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:nrc@wellesleyma.gov) or calling 781-431-1019 x2294.

