

Goal: Reduce Pesticide Use

Actions:

- * Support non toxic pest management and eliminate pesticide use for aesthetic purposes.
- * Reevaluate areas planted to lawn. Review these areas to determine whether they could be planted to hardy ground cover, edible landscape or rain gardens in areas where turf is not necessary.
- * Hire an expert in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic lawn care to provide annual in-service training to all city departments. Reward staff for effort and work well done with recognition or other incentive. In-service to include updates on similar efforts in other municipalities nationwide and in Canada, so that Madison's program is understood to be part of a national context.
- *LEED Certified Buildings will earn the Sustainable Sites Credit 3 for 1 point (LEED Reference Guide For Green Building Operations and Maintenance, 2009 Edition, p. 15-22)
- * Create a Pesticide Reduction Advisory Committee. The committee might be comprised of members from the Board of Health, Natural Resources Commission, Madison Metropolitan School District, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, Scientists, Physicians, Citizen Representatives (all interested and/or knowledgeable about environmental toxins and/or integrated pest management/organic lawn care techniques). The committee will help staff prioritize areas of most concern and act as a resource.
- * With assistance from the Pesticide Reduction Advisory Committee, set up Best Management Practices turf management plans, adopt an Integrated Pest Management Policy and take steps toward a ban on the use of aesthetic pesticides in the future.
- * Eliminate the use of pesticides on school and park playgrounds (exceptions would require review and acceptance by the Pesticide Reduction Advisory Committee). Require all contracted pest management companies to have Green Shield certification (www.greenshieldcertified.org). The appropriate MMSD official will notify parents at the beginning of every school year about the pesticide policy. Additionally in order to have good IPM oversight, records of a school's pesticide use will be sent to a central place for review (. This type of review has the potential to identify structural problems at an individual school that may have recurring pest problems. If such issues are identified, the possibility exists for the implementation of non-toxic preventive measures or non-toxic pest management).
- *City Council will ensure that all Pesticide Application Summaries are submitted.
- * Test city water yearly for pesticides and list levels clearly in the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

More Actions (technical):

1. For example, replace fertilizers from petro-chemicals with natural soil amendments such as compost, fish meal, and composted manure. This is also in line with recommendations from the WI Global Warming Task Force.

2. Plant a mix of turf grasses and dwarf white 'Dutch' clover in lawns, as was typically done in the 1950's for clover to provide nitrogen to the soil.

3. Set mower heights to 3-3.5 inches to shade out weeds and encourage deep roots for drought tolerance.

4. Aerate and over-seed lawns in spring and fall to reduce compaction, aid organic matter decomposition, and thicken turf to prevent weeds.