



City of Portland Pesticide Management Advisory Committee

Room 24
May 7, 2019
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Minutes from Prior Meeting
 - a. Minutes from April 2, 2019
3. Reports
 - a.
 1. Report on South Portland PMAC discussion about grubs
 2. Report on contacts with members of the public
 - b. Creation of informational brochures
4. Presentation and discussion: grassy weed control
5. Confirm next meeting date and discuss summer meeting schedule
6. Adjournment

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Pesticide Management Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes April 2, 2019

Members Present: Avery Kamilla, Karen Snyder, Carol Laboissonniere, Jesse O'Brien, Tim Lindsey, Priscilla Skerry

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Ashley Krulik

Meeting was called to order at 6:24 PM by Jesse O'Brien.

Welcome and introductions - information sharing among the group

- CedarCure - tick treatment that committee should review to see if it's allowed under the ordinance - carcinogenic
- April 9th - South Portland workshop with City Council regarding fertilizer
- Jon Hinck's firm recruiting people with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma for Roundup lawsuit

Review and approve minutes from March 11, 2019

- Tim Lindsey moved to accept, Avery seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Report on contacts with members of the public regarding the ordinance

- Troy
 - Very few calls about the ordinance so far
 - City in MA interested in our ordinance
 - Trying to connect with Maine Hardware on educational materials
 - One question about treatment for ticks
 - Participated in Channel 6 news story
 - One call about carpenter ants in the home
- Karen - create a spreadsheet with comments and questions that we receive

Waiver Applications

- Received one from Cherverus but it was not complete, asked them to fill in gaps and review ordinance again to determine if they are eligible.
- Waynflete - Application included a treatment plan with no changes to adhere to ordinance. No current sign of grubs. Waiver application denied, do not expect an appeal.
- Review process
 - Cannot discuss items over email, should discuss during meetings so that it is part of the minutes
 - Need to share fair judgement on waiver applications
 - Our meetings are public meetings and waivers are posted prior to waiver committee meeting, which is not the case in South Portland
 - Committee members should not deliberate prior to waiver committee meetings

- Can clarify agendas via email

Brochures

- 2 brochures are better than one
- Use South Portland as a base
- Karen to incorporate Avery's comments into her version of the Top 10 brochure
- Post Karen's version of the Pesticide Ordinance brochure for committee to review to Google Drive
- Reverse order of aeration and overseeding in Top 10 brochure
- Recommend spiking in addition to core aeration (spiking may bring up fewer weed seeds than core aeration, but spiking can cause compaction, site and time specific)
- Add UMaine Cooperative Extension Cumberland County as source
- Timing: aiming for the end of the month
- Distribution:
 - Events
 - Stores
 - Insert in Stormwater bills?
 - Included in Parks and Recreation digital newsletter
- Develop materials specifically for youth? Hold for now.
- Get quote to develop Pesticide Ordinance logo

Tabling:

- Home Depot has OK'ed
- Waiting to hear from Lowe's and Paris Farmers' Union
- Risbara Bros - haven't contacted yet
- Maine Hardware - talk to Tim
- Need people to commit to manning the table on a Saturday in May
- Sustainability Office to order table
- Jim Lausier - Peak's Island - Jesse to man

Outreach

- Add pesticide section to "Fix-It Portland" - Troy to look into
- Enforcement - use education first
 - How do we prove the use of ordinance? Cannot test, need to trust people's word.
- Add links to helpful books/resources to website

Approved Contractor List

- Cannot recommend based on certification
- Add disclaimer to compliant land care companies on website

Applicator's Round Table Review

- High priorities:
 - High Use Athletic Fields

- Homeowner education
- Grubs
- Reseeding during correct time of the year

Managing Grubs:

- 1 year lifecycle - grub -> pupate -> japanese beetle/other types of beetles
- Japanese beetle is being overtaken by the Oriental beetle
- European Chafer beetle - largest and most voracious
- Eat roots
- Once they reach large population, animals start to forage for them and tear up land quickly
- Issues: lots of different types of beetles, unpredictable, come and go quickly
- Need to discuss if Japanese Beetle traps are banned under ordinance
- Treatments:
 - Milky Spore - used as treatment for Japanese Beetles, does not work for other types of beetles, can be sporadic and doesn't last
 - Nematodes - specific to each type of beetle, spray into turf and attack grubs, all variables need to be perfect to work - may not survive Maine winters
 - Pre-emption - need to apply treatment before there is any sign of infestation to be effective - first or second week of August - once grubs are visible there is no effective organic product. Can use traps or watch for Japanese Beetles to determine if there will be an issue.
 - Possible to test in late fall if grubs are present? Yes.
 - Rescue treatment
- Need to consider long term effects of pesticides on children
- Acelepryn
 - Reduced risk product
 - Scarborough has been organic since 2011 - using Acelepryn on athletic fields to address grubs
 - South Portland also exploring Acelepryn for athletic fields - PMAC may recommend amendment to ordinance to allow Acelepryn for certain circumstances
 - Acelepryn affects muscles of insects - does not affect bees - could affect beneficial beetles/worms
 - Needs to be applied second week of May in coastal Maine
 - 48 hour re-entry time for schools
- LD 50 - used to rate all pesticide products - the higher the number, the safer the treatment is
- If pesticide is used in a proper manner at a proper time, it can save people thousands of dollars
- Artificial turf also poses issues and has high cost
- Thresholds are key
- Best educational resource for grubs: UMass, UConn and NOFA

Next meeting: May 7, 6:30pm

- Determine tabling events and who will work at each event
- Discuss enforcement

Motion was made by Troy Moon adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

If I have a weed or pest problem, what products are allowed?

If weed or pest problems do occur, the City allows the use of pesticides that are certified organic by the USDA or considered “minimum risk” by the EPA.

Types of effective, allowed pesticides include:

- Horticultural and insecticidal soaps
- Vinegar-based herbicides
- Essential oil-based pesticides
- Diatomaceous earth
- Biological-based pesticides such as bacillus thuringiensis

List of Allowed Products

A pdf list of products compatible with organic landscape management can be downloaded at portlandmaine.gov/pesticides

Note: This is not a complete list and will be updated periodically but may not reflect all qualifying products. This list is not an endorsement of any product and does not ensure their efficacy.

Product Labeling

- Look for the yellow YardScaping sticker at garden centers and hardware stores. This is a simple way to know which products are allowed under this ordinance.
- Another way to tell if a pesticide is allowed is if it has one of these labels visible on the front packaging.

Note: To search the products approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) database online, go to OMRI.org



Need Logo

Portland Pesticide Ordinance Waiver Process

Before a restricted pesticide can be used in the City, your lawn care applicator must request and receive approval from the City of Portland. This applies to each application.

There are only two allowed reasons for requesting a waiver:

- A situation that threatens public health.
- When invasive plants pose a threat to the environment

Note: Pesticide applications for the management of invasive insects (as defined by the Maine Forest Service) are exempt under the ordinance and therefore no waiver is needed.

Four conditions must be present for the Pesticide Management Advisory Committee waiver committee to approve an application:

- The applicant has tried alternative methods and materials.
- The applicant will to the greatest extent practical, minimize the impact on abutting properties and nearby water sources.
- The applicant will avoid applying pesticides immediately prior to rain events and/or windy conditions.
- The grant of the waiver will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare.

Note: Broadcast applications and preemptive treatments are prohibited, even when a waiver is granted.

Waiver applications are available at City Hall and online at: portlandmaine.gov/pesticidewaiver



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What you need to know about Pesticides in Portland

As of **January 1, 2019**, the City of Portland's Pesticide Use Ordinance prohibits the use of synthetic pesticides on all public and private property. The city enacted this ordinance to protect the health of our waterways, residents, pets, and natural ecosystems.

Watering and rainfall cause pesticides to pollute our streams, rivers, and Casco Bay - leading to algae blooms, reduced water quality and impacts for marine life.

By eliminating synthetic pesticides and establishing an organic lawn care system, your lawn will require fewer resources while resulting in healthy soil with fewer pests and weeds.



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What are the ordinance basics?

As of January 1, 2019, lawn and garden products that contain synthetic pesticides are prohibited on all public and private property in Portland, Maine.

This ordinance prohibits weed killers that contain glyphosate (such as Roundup™), fertilizer/pesticide combinations (weed and feed), and insecticides that contain imidacloprid.

The pesticide ordinance covers the following areas:

- Lawns
- Vegetable and ornamental gardens
- Landscaped areas
- Patios
- Sidewalks
- Driveways
- Parks and playing fields

For more information on the ordinance, products you can and can't use, and tips on how to achieve organic land care, visit portlandmaine.gov/pesticides

How will this ordinance be enforced?

Portland's Sustainability Office maintains all the pesticide waiver applications and a listing of complaints of alleged violations. The City's Sustainability Coordinator will work with contractors and the public to bring any alleged violators into compliance by providing educational materials and advice on the use of organic practices and products.



Are there any exemptions?

Yes, the following are NOT covered by the ordinance.

- Indoor and structural pest management (eg. termites)
- Commercial agriculture
- Pet supplies (shampoos, tick and flea treatments)
- Insect repellants
- Rat and rodent control supplies
- Swimming pool supplies
- General use paints, stains, wood preservatives & sealants.

In addition, you may continue to use any pesticide for:

- Management of invasive insects (as defined by Maine Forest Service)
- Poison ivy and other poisonous plants
- Tick and mosquito control
- Utility right of way applications (as defined in state statute Title 7,625:Right-of-way spraying)
- Pesticide Waiver approved applications

Are there restrictions on allowed pesticides?

Yes. ALL pesticides are prohibited within 75 feet of a water body or wetland. This includes:

- Ponds
- Rivers
- Streams
- Tidal areas
- Coastal or freshwater wetlands.

We are here to help.

Portland residents have many local and national resources to assist you in implementing organic land care, a few key resources include:

- [YardScaping.org](https://www.yardscaping.org) outlines ways to manage pests, build healthy soils, and choose native plants specific to Southern Maine
- [BeyondPesticides.org](https://beyondpesticides.org) is a national organization with extensive educational materials
- Consult this UMaine Cooperative Extension's Bulletin for solutions to specific issues: <https://extension.umaine.edu/gardening/manual/lawns/>

All of these resources and more can be found on portlandmaine.gov/pesticides

If you have any questions about this ordinance, please contact the City of Portland's Sustainability Office at SustainabilityOffice@portlandmaine.gov.





7

Embrace clover

Why: The addition of 10% mini or Dutch white clover can help reduce or eliminate the need for fertilizing. Clover is drought tolerant and, once established, grows despite lack of water. White clover is a rapid spreader that crowds out broadleaf weeds while growing harmoniously with grass. It will thrive in areas that are poorly drained or too shady for a conventional lawn. Plus, the flowers not only create a beautiful visual effect, but also bring in bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects that prey on garden pests.

8

Rethink weeds

Why: Many plants that are considered weeds in lawns have beneficial qualities. Clover adds much-needed nitrogen to soil. Crabgrass helps with erosion control. You can eat plantain. Dandelions are medicinal and help aerate soil and reduce erosion, and their deep roots draw up nutrients that help other plants.

9

Plant native species and attract pollinators

Why: Native plants are best suited to the local growing season, climate, and soils. They have natural defenses to insects and disease, and will grow with minimal needs for nutrients and pest control.

Tip: Milkweed, bunchberry, and cinnamon ferns are examples of native plants with great benefits.

10

Consider permaculture

Why: Permaculture is a creative design process based on whole-systems thinking. The term is generally used to describe sustainable agriculture designs for urban and suburban yards based on natural ecosystems. These are often home gardens that are closed-loop, linking household compost, rainwater collection, vegetable gardening, and backyard chickens to create a system as self-sufficient as possible.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about this ordinance, please contact the City of Portland's Sustainability Office at SustainabilityOffice@portlandmaine.gov or visit Portlandmaine.gov/pesticides.



Top 10 Practices to Manage Your Lawn and Landscape Organically

Managing your property organically can make a big difference and give you a healthy, pesticide-free lawn with fewer pests and weeds. Once established, an organic lawn will require fewer resources, such as water and fertilizers and your lawn and landscapes become safer places for children and pets, and make for healthier waterways.

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1

Start with a soil test

Why: A soil test will identify the relative acidity of your soil and give you more information on the nutrients the soil does and doesn't have. It will help determine what practices are needed to create healthy soil and plants.

What Is tested: Soil pH, levels of nutrients, amount of organic matter, if there is lead contamination, fertilizer, and lime needs.

When: Best time to test soil is mid to late spring or early fall before any fertilizer or lime is added to lawn.

How: One can get a free soil test kit from the UMaine Extension Office in Falmouth (5 Clearwater Dr. #104), or one can order a kit online - umaine.edu/soiltestinglab/home/kit-request. Test kits are free and the test costs just \$15.

2

Mow smart

Tip 1: Set your mower blade to the highest setting. Grass height should be at least 3" throughout the growing season.

Tip 2: Keep your mower blades sharp. A sharp blade provides a clean cut, which helps the grass to heal faster and promotes photosynthesis.

Tip 3: Don't bag your lawn clippings. Leaving the clippings on the lawn returns organic matter and nutrients to the soil, can cut fertilizer needs, and shade out weeds to foster deep, drought-resistant roots.

3

Water the right amount, at the right time

How much: In Maine, well-established organic lawns are drought-tolerant and only require 1"-1.5" of water a week, including rainfall.

When: If watering is needed during a summer drought, be sure to water deeply and only in the morning hours.

Tip: Avoid frequent, shallow watering. This can lead to shallow root growth, which allows for weeds to colonize. It also creates a humid environment, which encourages harmful soil fungi and pathogens.

4

Choose fertilizers with care

Why: Chemical fertilizers can harm the microorganisms in soil and undermine healthy turf. Compost will feed the soil, build organic matter, and encourage microbial diversity. Use only the amount indicated as necessary by soil testing, as even natural fertilizers in excess can cause problems for local streams and water bodies.

Tip 1: Compost can be applied yearly to add organic matter and jump-start soil biology. Sandy soils require more compost than clay soils.

Tip 2: Grass clippings and a thin layer of mulched leaves are rich in nitrogen and potassium, and can build organic matter in the soil.

5

Core Aeration

Why: Compacted soil encourages weeds and aeration will help air, water, and nutrients to enter. If you cannot stick a screwdriver easily into your soil, it is too compacted.

When: Prior to reseeding in late summer or early fall. (Fall is the best time to do it when the soil is moist).

How: Rent a core aerator from a local hardware or garden store or hire a lawn care company to do it for you.

Tip: Lawns that are properly aerated should have 20 to 40 holes per sq ft.

6

Overseed with the right variety of grass

What: Adding grass seed to your lawn, known as "overseeding," is actually a more effective way to manage weeds than using herbicides.

When: Seeding should be done primarily in late summer and early fall (following aeration when necessary) with a top dressing of ¼ inch of compost. If you have bare spots or areas where the grass is sparse, they should be reseeded or overseeded with a mixture of grass cultivars.

Tip: Maine's yardscaping program provides a helpful list of some grass seed sources. www.yardscaping.org