



# City of Portland Pesticide Management Advisory Committee Waiver Hearing

July 29, 2019  
11:00 AM  
City Hall - Room 24

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. New Business (5 minutes)
  - a. Cushings Island Conservation Corporation has requested a waiver from provisions of the Portland Pesticide Ordinance in order to apply otherwise prohibited pesticides to treat invasive plants.
3. Adjournment



## PESTICIDE ORDINANCE WAIVER APPLICATION

Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC)

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: John Spencer, President Cushings Island Conservation Corporation  
Livy More, Chair Cushings Island Landscape Committee

Address: Cushing Island, Portland 04109

Email Address: jsspencer41@gmail.com livezey@aol.com

Telephone Number: John 207-766-2680 (H) Livy 207-766-2606 (H)  
617-680-0012 (C) 202-262-7695 (C)

Submission Date: July 9, 2019

I am a:  Resident

Are you a licensed commercial applicator?  No

### REASON FOR REQUESTING THE USE OF A PROHIBITED PESTICIDE

For the control of invasive plants that pose a threat to the environment (*For a list of Maine Invasive*

*Plants visit: [http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/invsheets.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invsheets.htm))*

Required to protect buildings or structures from damage

**Please provide a detailed account of the problem you would like to address with the proposed pesticide application.** Include photos of the problem/pest and extent of the problem (this may be number of pests or area covered):

Most areas on Cushing Island – both common land and privately held land - have been invaded by Asiatic bittersweet, bush honeysuckle, barberry, and black swallowwort. These invasive plants have eliminated native understory plants (such as bayberry, viburnum, and sumac) in some areas and threaten the natives in other parts of the island. The bittersweet vines climb and eventually kill the native trees. In addition, invasive shrubs, especially barberry, are known to harbor ticks.

*Making the right pest identification is important and can be difficult. Resources for pest identification are available at: <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/gotpests/invasive-pests.htm>. NOTE: Applications for poisonous plants such as poison ivy, pests of significant health importance such as ticks and mosquitos, and destructive pests such as carpenter ants and termites are exempted under the ordinance. No waiver is necessary to address these pests.*

**What steps did you take to evaluate alternative methods to the proposed pesticide application, including but not limited to, non-pesticide management tactics, minimum risk pesticides, non-synthetic pesticides, and selecting the minimum amount of the least toxic, most effective pesticide necessary.**

We have employed a variety of non-pesticide methods over many years. These include hand and mechanical removal, repeated mowing, trials of organic herbicides, and the introduction of grass and/or native alternatives to compete with the invasive plants. Because the organic herbicides are not systemic, the invasives quickly rebound.

#### **PROJECT INFORMATION**

What are you treating?  Barberry, honeysuckle and bittersweet. Note we are waiting for a biological control for swallowwort and will rely on mowing, not herbicide, in the interim for this very widespread plant.

Address of proposed application: Cushing Island on conserved and commonly held land.

Please attach a map of the proposed application area (*this may be a sketch, however it should be to scale and include property boundaries, structures, and water bodies*).

Map and photos are attached to this document. The request is to allow use of synthetic herbicide (Roundup) over the entire area designated as conserved (in green) or commonly held (in orange) beyond 75 feet from the shoreline and swamp.

Is this application within 75ft. of a waterbody?  No

Proposed pesticide: Roundup Concentrate Plus in a 20% solution

Amount to be applied: not to exceed 32 oz per year (two 16oz containers of concentrate).

Method of application: Cut stem treatment using applicators, like small paint brushes or foam brushes

Proposed timing(s)/frequency of use: Timing will be based on clearing and maintenance projects to occur over time starting in late August until mid October. Frequency will be once per targeted individual invasive plant, once the stem has been cut. Frequency will be annual for the next 7 years, when we will revisit the below referenced land management plan.

Proposed date of application: There is no specific date as treatment will be timed with maintenance, clearing, weather, and availability of volunteers experienced with herbicide use. The window for effective treatments is in the late summer, early fall when targeted plants draw nutrients into the root system.

**Please provide a detailed management plan for your proposed application, including how you will minimize the impact of this application on abutting properties and, to the maximum extent possible, ensure that the grant of the waiver will not be detrimental to the public's health, safety or welfare.**

Most of the proposed treatment areas are at a distance from residential properties. When treatment areas abut residential lots, there will be no applications within 25' of the boundaries. During the late summer/fall period, the island population drops significantly. Painting stumps (as opposed to spraying) eliminates the risk of harming non-target plants.

The request is part of a ten year land management plan adopted in August 2016 and posted on the Cushings Island Conservation Corporation website at

<https://sites.google.com/site/cushingsconservation/land-management-plan>

In that plan we are clearing invasives out with mechanical methods and state:

"Herbicides will be limited in use, primarily to manage invasives from redominating cleared areas not controlled by mowing."

Please also note that the plan includes actions to restore native plants as invasives are managed.

The plan is for the conserved area, but the same actions are in place for commonly held land as well.

*NOTE: the following applications are prohibited:*

- Broadcast applications: the spreading of pesticides over an entire area
- Preemptive applications: the application of pesticides as a measure against something possible, anticipated or feared, i.e., as a preventive or deterrent measure

In order for the waiver to be considered, all of the fields above must be completed. For questions, please contact Ashley Krulik in the Sustainability Office at 207-874-8663.

Completed forms may be emailed to [akrulik@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:akrulik@portlandmaine.gov), or mailed or delivered to City Hall, 389 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102.





**EXAMPLES OF WIDESPREAD  
INVASIVES ON CUSHINGS ISLAND**

Barberry understory



Honeysuckle closeup



Masses of honeysuckle



Bittersweet



CUSHINGS ISLAND, PORTLAND, MAINE

Code:

**Green** – Cushings Island Conservation Corporation – preserved land

**Orange** – Cushings Island commonly-held land

**Brown** – Private households or privately-held plots



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*MIP* Areas targeted for treatment in 2019.