

Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

Visit our website at: www.wellesleyma.gov/NRC

Green Wellesley Campaign

Pledge to Learn About Alternatives to Pesticides

Why Alternatives to Pesticides

Pesticides are toxic by design. In addition to killing target pests, pesticides harm non-targets such as people, animals, beneficial plants, insects, fish and wildlife. Pesticides can cause cancer, damage the central nervous system, endocrine systems, and immune systems, and cause respiratory illness. Exposure to pesticides can be particularly harmful to children, the elderly, pregnant women, people with asthma and other respiratory problems and chronic health conditions.

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

IPM is based on strategies that provide cost-effective long term pest control while protecting our health, the environment, and the healthy development of our children. IPM uses site-specific information about conditions combined with knowledge of the pest's biology and behavior to prevent and control pests. Strategies include such steps as adjusting irrigation and mowing practices or improving maintenance and sanitation to remedy conditions that attract pests and allow them to thrive.

Does the pledge mean I can never use pesticides?

No. However, taking this pledge means the NRC will help you to develop an environmental management plan that emphasizes prevention and non-toxic or least risk control strategies for buildings and landscapes. Pesticides are used as a last resort and only within guidelines for least toxic selection and use. If you decide to use a pesticide, it should be a very limited and strategic use that avoids causing harm to people, animals or beneficial plants and insects.

Why take the Alternative to Pesticides Pledge?

- ✓ You will receive info on special events, workshops and resources.
- ✓ The NRC will put a BLUE DOT on the NRC's map of Wellesley. The map shows your neighborhood's growing commitment to reducing the use of pesticides in Wellesley.
- ✓ You will receive the NRC's Pesticide-Free Lawn sign to help promote pesticide use reduction in our community.

Clip and return pledge to NRC, 525 Washington St., Wellesley, MA 02482.

Join the NRC in Pledging to Learn about Pesticides Alternatives

Our mission is to protect our health and the environment by promoting safe ecological approaches to landscaping and pest control.

I pledge

- ✓ To learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a problem-solving approach to weed, insect and rodent control.
- ✓ To evaluate landscaping and pest control practices where I live, work, shop, pray, play and go to school.
- ✓ To stop all routine use of pesticides and use non-toxic strategies and alternatives to pesticides wherever possible.
- ✓ If, after trying non-chemical and least toxic approaches I decide that a pesticide is necessary, I will use it with extreme caution and take all steps to protect people, wildlife, and beneficial plants and insects.
- ✓ I will be a Good Neighbor. I will provide advance notification to visitors and abutters of any pesticide use and will post a Pesticide Application Warning sign for at least 72 hours.

Name _____ Ph: _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____

- I want to join the NRC's Pesticide Study Committee.
- Send me information for my friends and neighbors.
- Send me information for my school or workplace.

Questions? Call the NRC Office, 782-431-1019 ext. 2294