



A message from the Wellesley Board of Health and Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

The Wellesley Board of Health and the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission thank you for joining us at the “Landscapes for Living” forum. We hope today’s programs will inspire you to maintain your lawn and garden without the use of pesticides. Please consider the dangers of toxic chemicals to children, pets, and the environment and learn how to eliminate the 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 as they take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults, have vulnerable developing organ systems, and are less able to detoxify harmful chemicals.
- 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.

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 (www.organiclandcare.net/homeownerresources)
- Beyond Pesticides (www.beyondpesticides.org)
- “Protecting Your Pet from Pesticides” (grassrootsinfo.org/pdf/petcards.pdf)
- “Establishing and Caring for an Organic Lawn,” fact sheet from Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (<http://www.mofga.org/Publications/FactSheets/>)