

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

POLICY

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

INTENT

This Policy provides guidelines that will help to maintain and enhance the functionality, safe use, enjoyment and aesthetic beauty of the City's natural and developed parks. Integrated pest management (IPM) prevents and suppresses pests to acceptable levels effectively, economically and in an environmentally sound manner.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department is committed to managing vegetation and pest problems using IPM principles that will:

- use an ecological approach;
- minimize risk to human health and the environment;
- minimize the use of pesticides;
- consider community values in establishing maintenance standards for City lands; and
- include long-term benefits when determining cost-effectiveness.

The City is also committed to reviewing the implementation and ongoing success of its Integrated Pest Management Policy with City stakeholders on an annual basis.

IPM PRINCIPLES

The following principles are the basis of an IPM Program:

- prevention is the foundation of an IPM Program
- healthy ecosystems are less likely to have pest problems
- choose the right plant for the right place
- growing healthy plants is the best method of prevention
- do not plant monocultures; plant diversity results in fewer pest outbreaks
- when problems occur treat the cause, not the symptoms
- accurate problem diagnosis is essential

APPROVED BY: _____ **Original signed by**
DATE APPROVED: November 21, 2001
REVISION DATE: June 2006
Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

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- it is not desirable to eliminate the pests; it is only necessary to keep pest numbers down to non-damaging levels
- pests are suppressed using a combination of techniques (biological, physical, cultural, mechanical, behavioural and chemical)
- chemical pesticides are used only when other options are not feasible or effective
- if it becomes necessary to use pesticides only the least toxic pesticides effective against the pest are chosen for use

POLICY GUIDELINES

This Policy provide guidelines for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department to manage pest problems in natural and developed parks and other City landscapes safely and effectively in ways which minimize pesticide use while maintaining pests at acceptable levels.

I. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

- a. IPM principles will be used when maintaining parks and other public lands.
- b. IPM principles will be used in the design and construction of new landscapes and recreational areas.
- c. Pests will be controlled only when they exceed acceptable levels. Community values will be considered when establishing these levels. Tolerance levels for common pests will be developed in consultation with stakeholders.
- d. Safeguarding human health, the environment and non-target organisms will be the primary considerations when developing pest management strategies and pest tolerance levels.
- e. Pest problems will be controlled using a combination of cultural, physical, mechanical, biological, legal and chemical treatments in order to suppress pests to acceptable levels.
- f. Non-chemical methods of pest control will be given priority when dealing with pest problems.

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- g. Chemical methods will be implemented only when other options are not feasible or effective. The least-toxic pesticide that effectively controls the pest will be selected and applied. Least-toxic pesticides generally have short residual effects and/or specifically affect target pests. They are:
 - i. least hazardous to human health
 - ii. least disruptive to beneficial organisms
 - iii. least toxic to non-target organisms
 - iv. least damaging to the general environment
- h. These “preferred” pesticides include insecticidal and herbicidal soaps, horticultural oils, lime sulphur, biological pesticides such as Btk, etc.
- i. Training and educational opportunities for City staff involved with the IPM activities will be provided in order to keep up-to-date on the latest IPM developments.
- j. Information on IPM will be provided to the general public in order to encourage the use of non-toxic pest management strategies on private lands.
- k. Federal and provincial pesticide and pest management legislation will be complied with at all times. Noxious weeds and invasive plants will be controlled using IPM strategies and in accordance with existing legislation.
- l. The City will work cooperatively with federal and provincial governments to eradicate introduced exotic pests such as gypsy moth, using the most effective and safe methods available.

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II. APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES

- a. Application of pesticides will be in accordance with IPM principles.
- b. All person applying pesticides on City lands will be trained and equipped to safely and effectively apply pesticides.
- c. All persons involved in applying pesticides on City lands will hold a Ministry of Environment (MOE) Pesticide Applicator's Certificate in the "Appropriate Category".
- d. Pesticides will be applied during periods of lowest public activity whenever possible.
- e. Pesticides will not be applied when children are present at the location being treated.
- f. Public areas will be posted with notices stating where and when pesticide treatments are planned, as per MOE guidelines.
- g. Public areas will be posted with notices after pesticide treatments have occurred providing details on timing and product used, as per MOE guidelines.
- h. Pesticide application techniques and equipment will be used that are specifically designed to prevent pesticide drift.
- i. Pesticide applications will not be conducted when wind speeds are greater than eight (8) km/hour if pesticide drift is a possibility.
- j. Pesticide application equipment will be calibrated on a regular basis to ensure accurate, effective pesticide applications and avoid pesticide disposal problems.
- k. Backflow prevention devices must be used when filling spray tanks to prevent contamination of water supplies.
- l. Disposal of rinse water, excess pesticides and empty pesticide containers will be carried out in strict adherence to MOE requirements.

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- m. Water bodies and riparian zones will be protected from pesticide contamination by the use of pesticide free zones and buffer zones that comply with MOE requirements and guidelines.
- n. All pesticide applications will be made in strict compliance with label instructions.
- o. Detailed written records will be kept of all pesticide applications, including name of the applicator, name and quantity of the chemical used, target pest, location, size of area sprayed, weather conditions and treatment efficacy based on follow-up inspections of treatment area. In cases where the pesticides are applied by contractors, these records will be completed by them and supplied to the City.

III. PESTICIDE SAFETY AND STORAGE

- a. Protective clothing and equipment will be used when mixing, loading and applying pesticides, as per pesticide labels and MOE Guidelines.
- b. Pesticide spills will be dealt with immediately, according to MOE Guidelines. A Pesticide Spill Kit will be available at all times during pesticide transportation, mixing, loading and during application of pesticides. A Pesticide Spill Kit will be available in all pesticide storage areas.
- c. Pesticides and application equipment will not be left unsupervised at any time during spray operations unless they are locked in secure areas.
- d. When not in use, pesticides and pesticide application equipment will be stored in locked storage areas that meet MOE Guidelines.
- e. Equipment will be inspected prior to use and defective equipment will be repaired or disposed of immediately. Equipment will be cleaned and maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations and MOE Guidelines.

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