

TOWN OF DENNIS
Herbicide/Pesticide Management Policy on Town Owned Property

Glyphosate Ban

Section- 1: Findings and Purpose

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Dennis does hereby find that:

The use of products that contain Glyphosate on lands within the Town of Dennis creates a risk contributing to adverse effects on surface and/or ground water.

It is necessary to reduce the risk to human health and the environment by eliminating the use of herbicides that contain glyphosate as an ingredient.

To not use products containing glyphosate on any town-owned properties, grounds, or facilities the town owns.

That in an effort to protect The Town of Dennis and improve water quality throughout the region, the Select Board has determined that banning the use of products containing glyphosate by any Town employee applicator or applicator on Town-owned property is necessary and in the best interest to the public and the Town of Dennis.

The Select Board of the Town of Dennis wishes to eliminate the risks associated with products containing glyphosate and therefore seeks to ban the application of glyphosate containing herbicides by all Town employees and commercial applicators in the performance of landscaping and maintenance work on all owned or managed properties in the Town of Dennis and direct all departments to take all actions necessary to accomplish this objective.

This policy, when adopted by the Select Board of the Town of Dennis, shall apply to the following spaces owned and managed by the town park commissioners, Dennis conservation commission, Department of Public Works, Golf Department and library board of trustees on the grounds listed below, but not limited to:

- athletic fields
- playgrounds
- grounds of town buildings (police, fire, town hall, transfer station)
- traffic islands
- parks
- rights of way
- cemeteries
- conservation areas
- roadsides
- golf courses
- cranberry bogs

Section- 2: Authority

This land management policy is promulgated under the authority granted to the Select Board of the Town of Dennis under Massachusetts General Law providing that Boards may make reasonable policy and under the authority granted to the Select Board of the Town of Dennis to make policy for the protection of public health, safety and the environment

Section-3: Definitions

Herbicide: a substance that is toxic to plants, used to destroy unwanted vegetation.

Glyphosate: the primary ingredient in many broad-spectrum herbicides (e.g., Roundup[®], Rodeo[®]); and is a microbiocide; and is also a metal chelating agent that binds macro- and micronutrients, essential for many plant growth and development processes and pathogen resistance (patented to remove mineral deposits from boilers and steam pipes).

Imminent Threat to Public Health: an unpredictable, significant outbreak of poisonous, stinging, or biting insects or other pests, including poisonous or stinging plants that threaten public health. Such events should very rarely, if ever, occur.

Examples of alternative management practices the town of Dennis will use instead of products containing glysohate:

- mowing
- weed whacking
- using agricultural vinegar (20% vs household which is 3-5%) and salt or dish soap mixture
- citrus based
- phytotoxic oils (clove, pine, peppermint or citronella)
- smothering with mulch
- controlled fires
- goats
- hand pruning

Section- 4: Prohibition

The use and application of glyphosate based herbicides by the Town of Dennis employees and/or by private contractors for managing lawns, turf, ornamental beds, and trees is prohibited on all town-owned/operated lands unless an exemption has been granted by this Board. The Select Board may seek the opinion of the Board of Health on such exemptions. This includes all glyphosate herbicides of known and unknown hazard.

Section- 5: Inventory of herbicides

All the products that contain Glyphosate currently stored in or on town-owned premises shall be compiled by the DPW director who shall have the authority to dispose of any such products, including all GBHs, through the County's Hazardous waste collection program.

Section-6: Exemptions

None

Section- 7: Training

All personnel involved in the approval implementation or evaluation of turf and landscape maintenance should receive training and education in natural, organic cultural and technical methods as the training becomes available.

Section- 8: Complaints

The Town of Dennis shall investigate complaints received about any parties or acts that may violate any provision of this policy.

Section- 9: Effective date

This policy shall be effective as of [insert date].

~ Signatures of all members of the Board of Selectmen in Dennis with effective date of policy