



Washington Friends of Farms & Forests

Healthy, Pest-Free Property. Ask Me How!

Thank you for picking up a WFFF yard sign. Below are some questions and answers about pesticides. Please contact us if you would like more information.

“Why can’t I just leave things to nature? The weeds and insects aren’t hurting anyone.”

- Pest problems, including weeds, can be a risk to human health and safety. Effective control of pests is more than just eliminating a nuisance. They can spread diseases, inflict injuries, initiate allergies, trigger asthma or foul food.
- Some weeds can be poisonous to humans, pets or livestock.
- Bee stings and other insect stings/bites can be very harmful or deadly to people who are allergic.

“How do I know the products I am using are safe?”

- Pesticides are thoroughly tested and reviewed before their sale and use. Numerous federal and state agencies review and monitor the use of pesticides including the US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington Department of Agriculture, Labor & Industries, Department of Health & Department of Ecology.

“Isn’t it better to pull the weeds or use ‘green’ products on pests than to use chemicals?”

- The best approach to pest control is an overall strategy that includes prevention, sanitation and maintenance of an area. Integrated pest management incorporates many different approaches for prevention, sanitation and maintenance. Pesticides along with mechanical, biological and cultural controls all work together for the most efficient and effective pest control programs.

“Are pesticides harmful to my pets or children?”

- Pesticides that are labeled for use around your home and yard are tested and reviewed to make sure they are not harmful to pets and children. The review process is specific for each pesticide use.

“Dandelions don’t hurt anyone.”

- You may not mind them in your backyard but weeds in sports turf, for example, can cause a rough or uneven playing surface that can increase accidents and injuries to players.
- Other weeds, such as noxious or invasive weeds can crowd out native plant species and change the local ecosystems affecting insects, animals and fish.

Pesticides are an important part of an Integrated Pest Management program. They are a tool in the toolbox to solve pest problems.

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