

## MASSACHUSETTS TOWNS WITH GLYPHOSATE CONTROLS

In November 2018, Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer (POCCA) initiated an educational campaign directed to town Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Health regarding scientific studies proving glyphosate is harmful to people (especially developing children) and animals, and is found in environmental resources upon which we rely every day. It is up to us to protect our land and residents from glyphosate contamination because government agencies have failed to do so. Glyphosate regulations or policies on Cape Cod were requested from individual towns. Efforts included emails, phone calls, giving presentations, follow ups, and then more presentations.

In the summer of 2019, POCCA created a template regulation re. glyphosate-free land management for Massachusetts towns to adopt; later revised by Global Environmental Options (GEO), South Hadley, MA. The general request is for a town's Board of Health to write a new town regulation prohibiting glyphosate use on land that the town owns and/or manages. This template is now available for review and adaptation/adoption by any town in the Commonwealth. It's critical to provide educational background information to town boards and departments as to why glyphosate is harmful, and what non-toxic alternatives are available for unwanted vegetation management. Also, local community organizations statewide are encouraged to educate and to introduce the glyphosate-free template to their own town governments. Below are towns that are involved thus far, and what they are doing to solidify changes in their pesticide practices to help us all.

### Towns prohibiting the use of glyphosate on town-owned/managed land:

- **Chatham** — 2018, Board of Selectmen - Policy: Approved decision to no longer use glyphosate on Town-owned properties. "The Directive applies to all Town Departments and all Town properties."
- **Dennis** — 2020, Board of Selectmen - Policy: Prohibits glyphosate use on spaces owned and managed by the town park commissioners, 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 and cranberry bogs; golf courses to join 07/01/2021).
- **Eastham** – 2019 (updated from 2013), Board of Selectmen - Policy: Permanently prohibits the use of glyphosate by Town employees, volunteers or private contractors on all turf and green spaces owned and managed by the Town. "Excessive use of certain pesticides to control undesirable plants and insects is both an environmental problem and a public health issue. Some of these compounds accumulate in the food chain contaminating shell and fin fish." Town of Eastham will maintain its commitment limiting pesticide use to non-toxic methods.
- **Falmouth** – 2019, Board of Health - Moratorium: Issued a one-year moratorium re. glyphosate use until April 2020 by Town employees on Town-controlled property, and by any other entities on Town-controlled properties. The Board advocated forming a working group for alternatives to glyphosate and to learn more about other pesticides as well.

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- **Marblehead** – 2005, Board of Health - Regulation: The use of toxic pesticides by Town employees and/or by private contractors, is prohibited on all Town-owned lands, ponds and waterways. This is also to encourage the reduction and elimination of the use of toxic pesticides on private property; and to promote natural, organic cultural and management practices.
- **Mashpee** — 1982, Board of Health - Regulation: The use of herbicides is prohibited to control growth on any right-of-way or road shoulder within the Town. **Newburyport** — 2019, City Council - Regulation: Glyphosate application by Town employees or private contractors is prohibited on all Parks Commission lands and Town-owned lands, including school fields.
- **Orleans** — 2012, Board of Selectman/Park Commissioners - Policy: Requires Town employees and private contractors to use alternative non-toxic methods or organic pesticides on Town-owned properties under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen and Park Commission. This is to set a positive example for other pesticide user groups, and demonstrate that properties can be maintained without excessive use of fertilizer, phosphorous, pesticides, or herbicides.
- **Sandwich** — 2019, Board of Health - Policy: Prohibits the use of glyphosate- based products by Town employees on Town Properties under the Town's authority. This acknowledges the morbidity and mortality associated with glyphosate-based products, includes concern for protecting Town public water supply wells and private wells, and applies the "Precautionary Principle". The use of Glyphosate based products has been documented as carcinogenic, which use of has been banned by numerous communities and countries for the protection of public and environmental health.
- **Warwick** — 2017, Board of Selectmen - Town Warrant: Voted a ban (voluntary) that does not allow glyphosate to be used on any land within the town; reasons given were health and environmental concerns.
- **Wellesley** — 2011, City Council - Policy: The application of all toxic pesticides, including glyphosate, by Wellesley employers or private contractors is prohibited on Town-owned land, ponds and waterways (private property owners are encouraged to do likewise). Natural and organic cultural practices are the main method of choice to prevent pest or weed problems, and promote healthy soil and plant life. All water and compost is tested for pesticides.
- **Wellfleet** — 2015 (updated from 1988), Board of Selectmen - Policy: Prohibits the use of toxic pesticides on all Town-owned/managed lands, ponds and waterways. This is to protect public health, drinking water supplies, ground water, bays and estuaries and to encourage the same safe policies on private property. Natural, organic cultural and management practices are promoted. "We recognize that the use of pesticides may have profound effects upon humans wildlife, and the environment in the vicinity of treated areas. We recognize that all citizens, particularly children, have a right to protection from exposure to hazardous chemicals and pesticides." These chemicals pose additional danger when they run off during a rain event into bodies of water.

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### Towns in transition with this request, but haven't adopted a policy or regulation:

- **Barnstable** — 2019, Town Council: POCCA educated the Town Council at public meetings three times over the summer with requests to not use glyphosate on golf courses and they have eliminated it.
- **Harwich** — 2019, Board of Health - Regulation. Board agreed to write a regulation to read, revise and hold a Hearing before voting to eliminate the use of glyphosate products on Town-owned land.
- **Plymouth** — 2019, Board of Health: educational presentation and discussion by POCCA and GEO, with follow up contacts to address questions and concerns.
- **South Hadley** — 2019, Board of Health: educational presentation and discussion by GEO, with follow up contacts to address questions and concerns.

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### Details of town policies and regulations are available upon request.

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