

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (Use of Pesticides)

The following specific regulations are used by District staff and contractors when pesticides or alternative pest-control products are used.

1. An Integrated Pest Management Program (IPMP) is developed and implemented to reduce the use of pesticides. Lawn care standards including mowing height and frequency, aeration, overseeding, and fertilization are implemented to improve turfgrass density and reduce weed growth.
2. Structural and lawn chemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers are chosen with as low a level of toxicity as practical. The least toxic or organic formulation with the safest method of application is selected when there is a choice of products with comparable cost and effectiveness. Products labeled “caution” are to be preferred over products labeled “warning” or “danger”.
3. Long-term storage of chemicals is kept to a minimum. Since many chemicals lose effectiveness with storage, and storage further increases risk, only enough of the product for a given application is purchased. All materials are stored in accordance with label instructions. All products and application equipment are stored in a separate facility away from classrooms and food preparation or storage areas. Storage facilities are kept inaccessible to students and the general public and are clearly marked as pesticide storage areas.
4. All chemicals have complete label instructions and remain in the original containers until used. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and sample labels for lawn chemicals are kept on file in the District and are readily available to anyone who must handle such materials or who may be exposed to the product. Structural pesticide labels and MSDS are filed in the District as well.
5. All applications of pesticides and fertilizers are made in strict compliance with the label instructions, and under no circumstances do the product concentrations exceed those specified in the application instructions.
6. An annual written plan of seasonal applications is kept on file in the District. The plan contains the following information:
 - A. the season of the application;
 - B. the purpose of the application;
 - C. the product to be used;
 - D. the formulation of the product;
 - E. an estimate of the amount of product to be used;
 - F. the District site and specific area to be treated;
 - G. the type of equipment to be used; and,
 - H. any requirements necessary to comply with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency regulations, including any warning or notification signs.
7. All chemicals and organic products are applied at times that individuals are not in the immediate area or scheduled to use District facilities within the restricted entry limitations identified on the product label.

8. Treated school grounds are posted with a sign identifying the date and time of the application, product used, and re-entry date and time. Signs remain posted for 24 hours after the expiration of the re-entry date and time.
9. Records are kept in the District following each application and contain the following information:
 - A. name of certified applicators supervising the application and name of trained service technicians making application;
 - B. application and re-entry dates;
 - C. District site and specific areas treated;
 - D. pests controlled;
 - E. size of site treated;
 - F. trade name (brand name) and EPA registration number of chemicals used;
 - G. total amount of each chemical used;
 - H. rate of application and concentration of chemical formulation applied;
 - I. type of equipment used;
 - J. time of day, including the time of starting the actual application and the time of completion or, if uncompleted, the time when operations ceased for the day; and,
 - K. wind direction and velocity, air temperature, and other weather conditions when applicable.
10. District employee(s) responsible for handling and applying pesticides are required to have a valid pesticide application license issued by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, or must work under the direct supervision of a licensed applicator as permitted by ODA guidelines.
11. No school support groups, i.e., PTA, PTO, athletic boosters, etc. are permitted to apply chemicals on District property.
12. Any contracted services requiring the use of pesticides or any other chemicals must abide by Board policy and administrative regulations.

[Approval date: June 18, 2008]

Revised: February 19, 2014