

Current Practices:

- 53.07 oz of Glyphosate products used in past 3 seasons (17-18 oz/year)
 - Few repeat sprays
 - Spring and Fall treatments
 - Used on noxious weeds (poison ivy is a big concern)
- Solarization and Smothering
 - Ineffective with thistle
 - Low cost and labor
- Burnings
 - Time sensitive and requires repeat treatments, requires more staff
- Vinegar/Citric Acid
 - Bad for soil and not more effective than burning
- Pulling and Cutting
 - Time sensitive, requires more staff
- Mulching with Leaf and Wood materials

- All solutions require attention to barriers: Safety, Scale, Labor and Location
- Weeds of concern: Thistle, Burdock, Quackgrass, Crown Vetch, Poison Ivy

Proposals:

- Continue having staff use the multiple cultural and mechanical controls already being used to manage weeds.
- To supplement staff, hire college/post highschool students to work in different gardens.
 - Support labor needs, at a relatively low cost
 - Creates a career pathway and interest in young workers who will learn skills in non-chemical weed management
- Partner with agencies and organizations to remove hazardous plant materials like Poison Ivy for a low or no cost (i.e. Conservation Corp, Minnehaha Falls Landscaping)

Notes from the Committee:

Living mulch instead

Buckwheat + Allysum- biocontrol that brings in beneficial insects

Sherry Brooks Volunteer Coordinator- Tens of thousands of volunteer hours to help with weed management (volunteers can't use Power Tools)

Longfellow Gardens- each gardener has a volunteer network

We can utilize Volunteer power!