

Pesticide Advisory Committee – Gardens Sub-committee
Final Recommendations 3/25/19

Committee Members: Luna, Russ, Christy, Dani

Proposals:

- Utilize living ground covers, particularly around shrubs and perennials.
 - Buckwheat and Sweet Allysum are already used at some gardens, also provide benefits to pollinators.
- Continue having staff use the multiple cultural and mechanical controls already being used to manage weeds (See current practices section below).
- To supplement staff, hire college/post high school students to work in 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 low or no cost.
 - Minnehaha Falls Landscaping has offered to volunteer to do this work.
 - Continue and expand the use of volunteer groups to help with weed management
 - Longfellow Gardens gardeners have a volunteer network they collaborate with.
 - Sherry Brooks oversees tens of thousands of volunteer hours, primarily to help with weed management.

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, Quack grass, Crown Vetch and Poison Ivy.