

A Public Health Message

SPRING ALERT

The Town of Sherborn's

Board of Health

And

Ground Water Protection Committee

Would like you to know that:

Sherborn has adopted a strict Integrated/Organic Pest Management plan for the town and school grounds and buildings. We would like to urge you to garden organically as well.

NO Pesticide is completely safe:

Repeated exposure to pesticides used around the house, even at low levels, can cause serious adverse health effects. Most of the pesticides used on residential lawns (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and "weed and feed" products) – despite having an EPA registration – have not been adequately tested to determine their full effects on people or the environment. Many are possible carcinogens, and most have not been tested for their long-term health effects on the brain, nervous, endocrine, or immune systems. In particular, they have not been tested with the unique vulnerability of children in mind.

Pesticides can uniquely harm children:

Children's developing bodies are particularly sensitive to the harmful effects of pesticides. Pesticides are designed to poison. When used in the garden or on lawns, pesticides can be inhaled, absorbed through the skin, brought into the house on shoes, or by pets and toys, and inadvertently swallowed by putting unwashed hands into the mouth.

Pesticides can harm your drinking water:

Ground water contamination can result from pesticides leaching into ground water. Pesticides can leach through the soil to private wells and can travel to wells of citizens not even using pesticides on their property. Not only can humans be adversely affected from contaminated water, but other aquatic life, beneficial insects and pets can be hurt as well. If you use a lawn service, please ask them about organic care for your property. **Even mowing high (3") and watering deep can produce great results without having to use pesticides.**

Join us in helping to keep our citizens, pets, wildlife and our drinking water free of pesticides by trying organic/integrated pest management practices on your lawns and gardens this coming season. The Ground Water Protection Committee is offering a free forum on APRIL 27th 10:00am at the library during the Sustainable Lifestyles Celebration Fair to teach about pesticide-free lawn and garden practices, where to buy organic products and more.

For more information about pesticides, connect to: www.ci.wellesley.ma.us/nrc/pesticide; www.nofa.org; www.greendecade.org; Or email Blair Van Brunt at: blairvanbrunt@attbi.com for more information.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, **The Board of Health and the Ground Water Protection Committee**

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