

It's Common Sense...

Make educated choices about pesticide use and exposure. It's the best way to protect yourself from the health hazards of toxic chemical pesticides.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states, **"MOST PESTICIDES – DESPITE HAVING AN EPA REGISTRATION – HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY TESTED** to determine their effects on people or the environment."

PESTICIDES ARE NEVER 'SAFE' TO USE. It is illegal to claim so. Because of the inherent toxicity of chemical pesticides, the EPA and the Federal Trade Commission *prohibit* claims as to the safety of a pesticide or its ingredients, including statements such as "safe," "safe when used as directed," "non-poisonous," "harmless," and "nontoxic to humans and pets."

REPORT ANY SUSPECTED MISUSE OF PESTICIDES, or any pesticide-related illness to the MA Department of Food and Agriculture's PESTICIDE BUREAU. (617-626-1781). You can get more information regarding pesticide regulations on the DFA's website: www.massdfa.org/pestreg.htm.

ALL COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS OF PESTICIDES MUST BE SIGN-POSTED WITH A YELLOW WARNING FLAG, PLACED IN A VISIBLE SPOT.

INSECTICIDES, FUNGICIDES, HERBICIDES & "WEED & FEED" TYPE PRODUCTS ARE ALL REGISTERED AS PESTICIDES. Breakdown products of pesticides may be even more toxic than the original active ingredient.

MANY LAWN CARE PESTICIDES REMAIN TOXIC long after the recommended "24 hour" re-entry period.

"INERT (UNDISCLOSED) INGREDIENTS" ARE OFTEN HIGHLY TOXIC and can comprise up to 97% of the pesticide product.

MANY PESTICIDES ARE CLASSIFIED AS ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS, substances that essentially mimic, block or otherwise interfere with reproductive and growth hormones. The full health effects of exposure to endocrine disruptors early in life are permanent and irreversible.

Due to a variety of physiologic and age-related factors, **THE DEVELOPING FETUS, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ARE UNIQUELY VULNERABLE** to the harmful effects of pesticide exposure.

The National Cancer Institute reports that **CHILDREN ARE AT RISK** for brain and other childhood cancers, and are six times more likely to develop leukemia, when lawn pesticides are used at home.

Pets are also at risk for pesticide exposure since they play and sleep on grass, and sometimes ingest it. **DOGS ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP CANINE LYMPHOMA** in homes where the herbicide 2-4-D is used (a key component of Agent Orange and found in "Weed & Feed" type products).

PESTICIDE RUNOFF POLLUTES ground and surface water, which threatens the safety of our aquatic/marine environment and drinking water supply. Many lawn pesticides are highly toxic to aquatic organisms.

Almost any pesticide application will result in **PESTICIDE DRIFT - A MAJOR CAUSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION** - and damage to non-target areas.

The preceding facts about pesticides were obtained from: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances; Journal of the National Cancer Institute; National Academy of Science; American Journal of Public Health; U.S. General Accounting Office; U.S. Federal Code; Office of the Massachusetts State Attorney General; Office of the NY State Attorney General; Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides; The Science and Environmental Health Network; The Pesticide Applicators Training Manual.

... and Sound Science

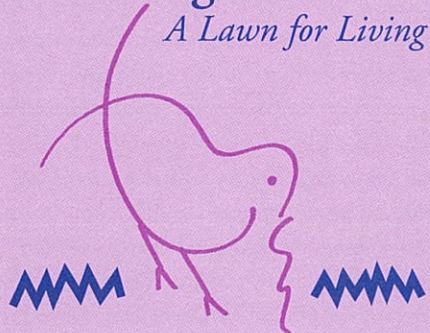
—THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE—

"When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."

The Wingspread Statement
January 1998

A Living Lawn...

A Lawn for Living



VISIT MARBLEHEAD'S ORGANIC LAWN & GARDEN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

At the end of Everett Paine Boulevard
off Route 114 in Marblehead.

A Partnership Project of MPAC,
Town of Marblehead, Board of Health
Recreation, Parks & Forestry Department
Marblehead Environmental Coalition

Partially-funded by Toxics Use Reduction
Institute (TURI) at UMass, Lowell
and the New England Grassroots
Environmental Fund

A public service of
MPAC
Marblehead Pesticide Awareness Committee
4 Sewall Street
Marblehead, MA 01945
(781) 631-7214 or www.livinglawn.org for
more information

**CHOOSE
NOT TO USE
PESTICIDES.**

ALTERNATIVE PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE.

*Ask your local nursery and hardware stores to carry
non-toxic alternatives. Other sources for products
and information are:*

GARDENS' ALIVE! catalog
(812-537-8650 or www.gardensalive.com)

GARDENERS' SUPPLY COMPANY
(1-800-863-1700 or www.gardeners.com)

ORGANIC GARDENING MAGAZINE
(1-800-666-2206 or www.organicgardening.com)

*TURI - TOXICS USE REDUCTION
INSTITUTE AT UMASS, LOWELL*
(978-934-3275 or www.turi.org)

*BIRC - BIO-INTEGRAL RESOURCE
CENTER* (510-524-2567 or www.birc.org) - a
non-profit organization offering advice/resources
on non-toxic and least-toxic alternatives to many
pest control problems.

*BEYOND PESTICIDES/NCAMP -
THE NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST
THE MISUSE OF PESTICIDES*
(202-543-5450 or www.beyondpesticides.org) -
a non-profit clearing-house for pesticide
information.

MARBLEHEAD PESTICIDE AWARENESS COMMITTEE
4 SEWALL STREET
MARBLEHEAD, MA
01945

Pesticides and Your Health

*Awareness Through
Education*

Do you know what this
sign really means?



Most people are unaware of
the meaning of these
pesticide warning flags.
PESTICIDES ARE POISONS,
and all are associated with
some risk to human health
and the environment.