



City of Seattle

Office of the Mayor

City of Seattle

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

Executive Order 2019-05: Integrated Pest Management Program Update

An Executive Order directing City of Seattle departments to update the City's Integrated Pest Management Program, including reevaluating the current pesticide list, and to immediately restrict the use of glyphosate at the highest level under the IPM Program.

WHEREAS, a healthy environment is beneficial to Seattle's residents, employees, and visitors, and it is the responsibility of the City of Seattle to steward the natural ecosystems in the City's care to provide clean water, clean air, biodiverse habitats, and address climate change; and

WHEREAS, through the Race and Social Justice Initiative and other efforts, the City of Seattle is committed to eliminating racial disparities and achieving racial equity in the community, and this applies to how the City manages public lands; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the possible negative health impacts of certain pesticides, the City of Seattle maintains 22 pesticide-free parks and 250 pesticide-free zones covering play areas, turf, picnic sites, water play features, and community food gardens and works to reduce the use of pesticides in all parks; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the City Council passed Resolution 31548, stating that the City would not purchase or use neonicotinoid pesticides and would seek to use only pollinator-friendly methods of weed and pest control on City-owned or operated land, and in 2015, Seattle became a Bee City, U.S.A., institutionalizing the commitment to collaborate with the community on establishing and maintaining healthy pollinator habitats within Seattle; and

WHEREAS, since the 1970s the City of Seattle has used best practices that include a wide variety of strategies to prevent and address pest problems and has focused on non-chemical cultural, mechanical, and biological controls when possible to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, an Integrated Pest Management Interdepartmental Team consisting of departments with land and greenhouse management responsibilities –Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle City Light, Seattle Finance and Administrative Services, and Seattle Center – has collaboratively implemented the City of Seattle's Integrated Pest Management Program; and

WHEREAS, any pesticides must be approved for use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and registered for use in Washington State by the Washington Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the product label; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington and certain counties require the City of Seattle to manage certain noxious weeds and other pests to restore and maintain City forested parklands and other known habitat, and this may involve the use of certain pesticides; and

WHEREAS, the City maintains a list of approved pesticides for use when other methods are not viable, and restricts them according to their health and safety ratings; and

WHEREAS, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) at the World Health Organization and the State of California categorized glyphosate as a probable carcinogen to humans; and

WHEREAS, under the City's Integrated Pest Management Program, the Interdepartmental Team is expected to reevaluate a pesticide when certain thresholds are met, including listing as a probable carcinogen, and move it to the most restricted category, NOW, THEREFORE

I, Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor of Seattle, hereby direct all City departments that manage land to follow the City's Integrated Pest Management Program, to identify staff to serve on the IPM Interdepartmental Team, to immediately restrict the use of glyphosate at the highest level under the current IPM Program, and to update the City's IPM Program, including reevaluating the current pesticide list using a risk reduction model, as follows:

Section 1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Interdepartmental Team (IDT): Each City department having land management responsibilities shall identify a representative to act as a liaison to the IPM IDT and to be responsible for coordination within the department. The IPM IDT shall create a group charter that defines membership, roles and responsibilities, and membership.

Section 2. Update Integrated Pest Management Program: The City of Seattle's IPM IDT shall update the City's IPM Program to incorporate the most current science, following the precautionary approach of a risk-reduction model.

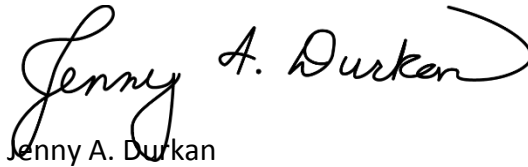
Section 3. Glyphosate Restriction: The City of Seattle's IPM IDT shall immediately reclassify herbicides containing the active ingredient glyphosate as Tier I pesticides, the most restricted category. These are chemicals that are highly hazardous to applicators, highly toxic to animals, and those with long-term pollution concerns. Tier I pesticides may only be used as a last resort when no other viable options exist to achieve optimal results. Use of Tier I pesticides requires formal approval by the IDT.

Section 4. Revised Pesticide List: The IPM Program update shall include a reevaluation of all approved pesticides and shall establish an updated products list with specific guidance on City use to manage weeds and other pest species.

Section 5. Accessible Pesticide Data: The IPM IDT shall develop an interdepartmental database system to improve access, accuracy, and transparency in City pesticide application records.

Section 6. Public Portal: The IPM IDT shall create a public web portal to describe the City's Integrated Pest Management Program, including a comprehensive list of common pest species with current best practices to include all applicable integrated pest management strategies.

Dated this 23rd day of August, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle