

## TEN-STEP PLAN TO ELIMINATE GLYPHOSATE USE FROM TOWN-OWNED LANDS

This is a request for all Massachusetts towns *to not use* glyphosate-based herbicide products on property the town owns starting in 2020, and to create a suitable new land management regulation. This will help protect the health of the town and preclude potential liability cases regarding glyphosate exposure. The steps below educate Boards how to join other towns to stop glyphosate use by town departments.

**1 - An email will be sent by the authors, with attached documents (see #2 below), to town leaders: Town Manager, Select Board and Board of Health.** Glyphosate has been scientifically proven harmful to public health, developing children, pollinators, and contaminates most environmental resources. Since this is a health issue, the documents request each town in Massachusetts to write a regulation with their Board of Health, considering it is the strongest way to protect your town from potential liability related to use of this herbicide. A *regulation* is enforceable and, typically, legally stronger than a *policy*. A policy is less informal, easier to adopt, implement and modify. Any town Board can create a policy to be written in as strong language as the Board desires. Under Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), a town can pass a policy or regulation to not use glyphosate on town-owned property because it is not covered by pre-emption law. MGL Chapter 111, Section 31 provides that Boards of Health may make reasonable health regulations; and as granted in Section 122, shall investigate all nuisances and causes of sickness within its town, which may, in its opinion, be injurious to the public health, and shall make regulations for protecting public health and safety relative to all such nuisances and causes of sickness.

### **2 - Documents sent in this package to all Massachusetts towns are;**

- ~ Steps for towns to take (information needed for Boards to move forward):  
“TEN-STEP PLAN TO ELIMINATE GLYPHOSATE USE FROM TOWN-OWNED LANDS”
- ~ A Regulation Template (written for towns to use as a guide):  
“NEW ORGANIC LAND MANAGEMENT REGULATION FOR TURF AND LANDSCAPES ON TOWN-OWNED/OPERATED PROPERTY”
- ~ Glyphosate poster (graphic to clarify glyphosate concentration; see pp.1-2 of Template):  
“POSTER: 1ppt BREAST CANCER”
- ~ Studies proving harm (abstracts and studies from independent scientists):  
“GLYPHOSATE - SCIENCE AND HARM”
- ~ Alternatives to glyphosate (replacement practices):  
“ALTERNATIVES TO GLYPHOSATE-BASED HERBICIDES”
- ~ Towns in Massachusetts that have already restricted glyphosate usage:  
“MASSACHUSETTS TOWNS WITH GLYPHOSATE CONTROLS”

**3 - The common first step for town leaders is to determine if glyphosate products are being used on any land the town owns and, if so, how much in each department.** The Select Board, the Water Commission, DPW, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Parks and Services/Recreation, and any land management contractor will know what quantity of glyphosate they use yearly. It is important to clarify whether the amount of glyphosate product is a concentrate or a ready-to-use formulation. Those who maintain land know what specific products they typically use yearly, and sometimes order in advance to have it on hand when needed. It is vital for towns to not purchase glyphosate products for 2020 since it is proven harmful on many levels.

**4 - The second step is to provide the attached document “ALTERNATIVES TO GLYPHOSATE-BASED HERBICIDES” to all town departments, including school groundskeepers and golf course superintendents.** Ask them to remove all herbicides containing glyphosate from their ‘toolbox’. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in most common herbicides. Departments should use less harmful methods to maintain town-owned lands. See the alternatives document that lists other ways to maintain unwanted vegetation. For a quick remediation of unwanted vegetation, ask your town departments to

## TEN-STEP PLAN TO ELIMINATE GLYPHOSATE USE FROM TOWN-OWNED LANDS

use mechanical methods instead of applying any toxic or non-toxic 'product'. This is best for protecting the health of the land and all living creatures upon it.

**5 - A frequently asked question from a Board is about the cost difference between glyphosate and non-toxic management.** What is the cost difference? First, realize that the real 'cost' is well beyond money. Once the long-term broad-spectrum harm of glyphosate is understood, it becomes clear there is a greater responsibility to shift ways to alternative methods. Otherwise, over time, all living things downstream are harmed, it: bioaccumulates inside all life forms; is mobile above and below ground; easily permeates soil; harms earthworms and the soil microbiome.

**6 - Write a new regulation on glyphosate-free land management.** The new Template ("NEW ORGANIC LAND MANAGEMENT REGULATION FOR TURF AND LANDSCAPES ON TOWN-OWNED/OPERATED PROPERTY") is written in hopes every town in the State of Massachusetts will use the same basic language to keep methods uniform throughout the State. The ultimate request is for a Board of Health to write a regulation to eliminate glyphosate usage in order to protect the health of town residents, visitors, pets, other animals, and to safeguard against glyphosate exposure liability.

**7 - Create an ad-hoc research committee to investigate potentially harmful products and report quarterly to the Board of Health.** This is important because there are constantly new developments and scientific findings that may affect our health (e.g., PFASs, PFOAs, glufosinate, neonicotinoids). Massachusetts agencies and the EPA are not able to keep up with independent science, or chose to ignore it, so it is up to town governments to protect their citizens and environmental resources.

**8 - After the new regulation is adopted, please contact your local newspaper to further the outreach of the town's decision to not use glyphosate products on town-owned land.** Have an article written (in accord with MGL) to inform residents their town leaders have adopted a new town regulation to better protect town-owned properties. Getting this information into your local papers educates local businesses, stores and residents that they too should not purchase or use any glyphosate products. Hopefully, townspeople will realize the significance of their town leaders' decision and not wait for the EPA or other agencies to agree glyphosate is harmful enough to stop selling it in stores.

**9 - Congratulations to your town government.** Take a minute to realize you have just changed history and the future health of your town. Your efforts, no matter how long it takes, will make a difference for generations to come.

**10 - Reach out and let GEO and POCCA Cape Cod know the news of your town's successful efforts in order for us to update our records.** Also, please notify and encourage neighboring towns to take similar action.

---

For additional information, please contact:

•••**Ms. Laura Kelley**, Organic Horticulturist and President of Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer (POCCA Cape Cod), North Eastham, MA ~ [pocccapecod@gmail.com](mailto:pocccapecod@gmail.com)

•••**Dr. Stephen Frantz**, Research Pathobiologist, Global Environmental Options (GEO), South Hadley, MA ~ [Global Environmental Options LLC <frantz@mac.com>](mailto:frantz@mac.com)



•••••

