

	DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS POLICY AND PROCEDURE <i>TITLE: Neonicotinoid Use on Parkland</i>	No:
		Director: John R. Byrd
		Hearing Date:
		Initial Release:
		REVISED: Implemented:

PURPOSE

The Department of Recreation & Parks (DRP) is charged with the management of approximately 10,000 acres of Parkland within Howard County as set forth in Title 19, subtitle 2 of the Howard County Code. The management of these County owned lands is accomplished using an Adaptive Management Approach to maintenance and conservation practices. This policy and procedure outlines the restrictions related to the use of neonicotinoids within the park system.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has restricted the use of neonicotinoids due to recent research suggesting that there is a link between pesticides that contain neonicotinoids negatively effecting populations of pollinator species, such as; honeybees, native bees, butterflies, moths and other insects. The Department is committed to protecting, enhancing and restoring the natural environment. Therefore, the Department has taken a proactive approach, limiting the use of pesticides and using them in accordance with the manufacturer label and accepted Integrated Pest Management practices (IPM).

DEFINITIONS

1. Neonicotinoid - a class of insecticides related to nicotine with a common mode that affects the central nervous system of insects.
2. Adaptive Management Approach (AMA) - involves implementing a management action, monitoring and evaluating its effectiveness and improving practices based on the findings.
3. Pollinator insects - insects such as bees, butterflies and moths which transfer pollen from one plant to another, facilitating plant fertilization.
4. Integrated Pest Management practices (IPM) - is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of suppressing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

PROCEDURES

Subtitle I: Use of Neonicotinoids

The use of neonicotinoids are prohibited on all County parkland including sports fields, garden plots, golf course and open space, with the following exceptions:

Exceptions

Neonicotinoids shall only be used with the express authority of the Director of Recreation and Parks in the following situations:

- Neonicotinoids shall only be used when an alternate pesticide will not provide effective and safe control of the pest.
- For use on parkland under agricultural lease.
- Future infestation of invasive pest species that can only be controlled by using neonicotinoids.

Subtitle II: Agricultural Lease

Agricultural land managers and their subcontractors shall adhere to the following requirements when utilizing neonicotinoids on county property.

- Must possess a Maryland pesticide applicators license.
- When available, agricultural land managers are encouraged to use alternatives to neonicotinoids in their farming operations.
- Pesticide application protocols will be reviewed on a yearly basis to ensure best management practices are being followed.
- Agricultural land managers shall provide an annual pesticide use report to the Natural and Historic Resources Division.