



Healthy Solutions

Suggestions for Chemical-Free Landscape Care on Islesboro

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For references and online links to further information about pesticides,
please visit <https://pesticidesafetyonislesboro.com/>





INTRODUCTION

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To our friends and neighbors:

We live on a small island and share drinking water, air, and land resources with each other. Lawn and garden care can either add to our health and enjoyment of the island, or lead to disease and pollution.

Increasingly, science shows that synthetic chemicals used in landscape care harm humans, our pets, wildlife, and the environment. For instance, in thousands of recent lawsuits, glyphosate, a chemical in the weed-killer Round-up, is cited as a cause of cancer.¹ Numerous studies have found that the herbicide 2,4-D, used in “weed and feed” products, can harm the human hormone system, leading to health problems such as birth defects, autism, and Parkinson’s disease.² The Smithsonian Institution warns that a single seed treated with imidacloprid, an insecticide in the neonicotinoid family, can kill a songbird within days.³

Pesticide Safety on Islesboro (PSI) has put these guidelines together to help Islesboro residents, gardeners, caretakers, and landscaping professionals take a natural approach to landscape care, rather than depending on the use of dangerous chemicals. We are very grateful to the many islanders who helped us with this project (please see p. 24).

Over the years, many of you have developed successful gardening practices that may well differ from those suggested here. If your lawn or garden currently depends on chemicals, we hope this guide will help you find a healthier way to maintain your landscape. When it comes to gardening techniques, do what works for you – just don’t use products containing synthetic pesticides.

If you have questions, please contact any one of us directly or through the PSI website, <https://pesticidesafetyonislesboro.com/> And if you know of a safe, simple gardening technique or a solution to a particular pest problem that isn’t mentioned in the booklet, please tell us. Your input would be welcome, for this publication is a community project that will be updated from time to time.

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PSI is a standing committee of the Town of Islesboro and has the full support of the Select Board.

The Town does not use synthetic pesticides on its properties.

¹ <https://fortune.com/2019/10/30/roundup-lawsuits-bayer-defiant>

² Walter J. Crinnion, Joseph E. Pizzorno, *Clinical Environmental Medicine*, pp. 278-281; Diane Lewis, M.D., *The Great Healthy Yard Project*, pp. 81-84. Copies of these books are in the Alice L. Pendleton Library

³ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/popular-pesticides-linked-drops-bird-population-180951971>