

## The Pesticide Opt-Out Variance Request

This variance permits the homeowner to opt-out of the use of pesticide treatments on a portion of the property immediately near their home for a period between April 1 to October 31 each year. Under conditions to be described below, **the opt-out variance may be granted on a year-by-year basis**. It does not limit the application of fertilizers, nor the process of seeding, mowing, or trimming of shrubbery.

The areas of property covered by this variance are defined with two needs in mind: 1-The needs of opt-out homeowners to come and go from their homes in areas free from pesticides. 2-The need of the workers applying pesticides to manage the application process effectively while avoiding the "opt-out" areas.

For homes with two adjacent neighbors, the opt-out area is limited to the front of the home, bounded by the driveway from house to the street, along the street to a line extending to the end of the homeowner's section of the building. This area will include the front entrance. For end units, the area is bounded on one side by the driveway from the house to the street, then along the street itself to a line that extends from the street to the outside edge of their deck. For many end units, this enables homeowners to have pesticide-free access to their front doors.

A drawing of the opt-out area must be submitted by the homeowner with the Variance application to assure that the designated area is consistent with the above definition.

The homeowner's opt-out area must be clearly identified by the homeowner at the time of pesticide application using a sign at each of the two street endpoints. Failure to have the opt-out area identified may result in pesticide application. Recommended signs are inexpensive and can be purchased by the homeowner.

It is clear that different homes will have different non-pesticide lawn areas. Nevertheless, all homeowners who are granted the opt-out variance agree to share the responsibility of maintaining the quality of that lawn area such that it maintains the kind of "curb-appeal" similar to those neighboring lawn areas that are treated with pesticides.

If, in the late fall season, a homeowner's opt-out area has degraded due to severe thinning, bare areas from insect or grub damage or heavy weed growth or if shrubbery has suffered insect damage in a way that distinguishes them negatively from neighboring areas that are treated with pesticides, the opt-out variance will not be available to the homeowner in the following year. In that case, the homeowner's lawn area and shrubbery will be brought back to community standards at the homeowner's expense.

**By submitting this variance with their signature, homeowners acknowledge their understanding of the extent and limitations of this variance and their willingness to share the responsibility of maintaining the quality of that lawn area.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Board Action    Approved \_\_\_\_\_    Denied \_\_\_\_\_    Date returned to applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_