

PESTICIDE FREE HILLSBORO COVE

Note:

This is the topic of the three following sections as described below. This document is a merger of three separate documents that were submitted to the Board. Their content overlap since they served different purposes. All the information and text are as submitted to the Board. The documents served the purpose of informing the Board and the community of alternate ways of caring for the environment surrounding our homes here at Hillsboro Cove.

SECTION 1

This section is the text of the verbal presentation made to the Board on January 21, 2021. The electronic document was then sent to the Board on January 21, 2021.

SECTION 2

This provides the background information from which the presentation was derived. This was sent to the Board on January 13 and again on January 21, 2021.

SECTION 3

This represents the leg work done to identify vendors who would be able to provide services consistent with the goal of maintaining a pesticide-free Hillsboro Cove. It was then sent to the Board on January 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted to the Hillsboro Cove Community on September 1, 2021,

Louise Paulsen
1071 Hillsboro Cove Circle

SECTION 1

Present: HC Board of Trustees (Donna, Jeff, Judy, Marty, Marjorie, Jason)
Re: Pesticide Free Hillsboro Cove
Date: January 21, 2021
Presented by: Louise Paulsen

Thank you all for taking an interest in being a part of improving the health and safety of our community.

I offer a special thanks to Bonnie Cristo whose passion, enthusiasm and research skills have made this effort possible.

Bonnie and I have been bolstered by the Community Relations Committee who has offered us their overwhelming encouragement and support. In spirit, we are here together with Ann and the crew.

And thank you, the Board of our HOA and to Nick Harris with RPG for taking the time to listen to our plea to eliminate the use of pesticides in HC. We need you and look forward to working together.

I have sent a lot of information to you and I hope you have had a chance to review it.

Even if you had not received anything from us, you are all aware of the dangers of synthetic chemicals when used in so many ways but specifically, here, in the service of beautifying our lawns and gardens.

You don't need the Community Relations Committee to tell you they are dangerous. We have been living for years with this knowledge. The EPA does its job to restrict the use of the most dangerous chemicals but that is only possible after years of research. Eventually, the most dangerous are banned but often after appreciable damage has been done.

It reminds me of the slow process of restricting the sale of cigarettes and regulating where they can be smoked. It was a long struggle from learning of the connection between smoking and so many diseases and then following it up with legislation.

You, the Board, have the responsibility to represent the whole community – those who want a pretty and pristine lawn – and those who put their health, their pet's health, and the environment above all else. Your decisions are not easy but at the same time, they are very consequential.

Because of the way we are situated here at HC, in such close proximity to each other, whatever treatments are put on our lawns will impact all of us, even for those who choose to have no herbicides applied to their small plot of land. No matter what, they will be impacted, because of ground water diffusion, drift, spray or other means of spread. (Think of the old days of smoking on airplanes, in restaurants, at the office, etc.) I think it is similar.

We are a large HOA and because we are so large, we have the opportunity to make a big difference in reducing the footprint of synthetic pesticides.

So, the COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE is reaching high and hoping that we can manage our landscape this year with natural products under the guidance of an organic lawn care contractor who practices such things as mowing high at about 3", overseeding and composting, to name a few. (Please refer to reference in the other document and scroll through the site BEYOND PESTICIDES. It has a wealth of information.)

If we can do that, we will be a model community for others to emulate.

The COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE is willing and able to continue to educate the community.

And, so importantly, we want to know how we can work together with you, the Board, in such a way that we will ultimately have the same goals.

All the while, we will keep the welfare of our families, our pets and our environment close.

The document I sent to you is background information and now I will try to be as practical as possible. I will only review highlights of the table I created that is in the document I sent to you. I bring your attention to the list of all the chemicals (by brand name) that were scheduled or available for use by TruGreen in 2020. Each product noted is followed by text from the product label and/or safety data sheets, all regulated by the EPA and other governmental agencies.

This is how they inform the public -

- with signal words like DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION.

And these signal words are coupled with Hazard Statements. (similar to the label on a pack of cigarettes)

I will read these statements taken from the labels of products used here at HC:

"may be fatal if swallowed and enters airways; causes eye irritation; may cause an allergic skin reaction; may cause drowsiness or dizziness; suspected of causing cancer; may cause damage to organs through repeated and prolonged use; may cause respiratory irritation; avoid breathing vapors or spray mist."

It gives me pause.

Similar statements are enumerated related to pets, bees, fish and wildlife, secondary to herbicide runoff or drift, ground water penetration, etc. Just this morning I read about researchers who first count the number of Monarch Butterflies along the coast of California. They counted a mere 2000. That number says to them that the Monarch Butterfly is close to being extinct along the West Coast.

We cannot ignore these warnings on the product labels provided to us by the regulatory agencies, the question is what are we going to do about it? What do we do about our dandelions, clover, crabgrass?

This is when we turn to the expertise of a contractor who is knowledgeable and experienced in weighing the conflicting demands of homeowners. We hope we can work collaboratively with you to choose the right contractor who will use the most effective natural techniques available and that we can, together, continue to educate our community.

I have called many contractors and have found dead ends **and** encouragement. After this meeting I will send you the document with all my findings to help you in your search. Right now, I want to tell you about a jewel in the rough (no pun intended).

T.L.C. Organic Lawn Care

Tim Wiesmore, owner operator

585-594-3311

<http://www.tlorganiclawn.com>

- He can do 100% natural
- He can do a hybrid for a transitional approach
- Four applications a year, once every 6-8 weeks. This is natural fertilizer that he purchases from Jonathan Green organics. You Can look up online.
- Tim said his price for natural is higher than for chemical treatment, but he has some leeway.
- Weed control is also more expensive for the 100% natural. They do spot treatment. It is all designed for a slow easy break down of the weeds.
- For the hybrid, weed control would be synthetic but targeted.
- He has a couple HOA's and one is

- Brighton Estates managed by Integrated Facility Solutions. Annie Karney is the property manager
 - She has worked with TLC for two years. First year did a hybrid. The HOA Board wanted 100% and last year did so. This year will better be able to assess results of 100%.
 - The cost has been higher and the HOA has enthusiastically supported it.
 - Her personal opinion is that the hybrid is a good solution to reduce the footprint by 75% and still control weeds with synthetic chemicals with spot application.
 - Annie has been very happy working with Tim. She cannot say enough about his communication, quick responses, problem solving and good follow through.
 - He sounds good to me.

MY COMMENTS

If you like the ideas I have presented but have your eye on the budget, it is good to remember that the cost of the fertilizers, natural or synthetic, is a small portion of our HOA budget and maybe we can dig a little deeper for ways to go natural and still not increase the total expenditures.

We put it in your hands, but please know you can call on us at any time for further discussion, collaboration or just to commiserate because, we both know, this issue is not going away. For us, the Pest Free Subcommittee and the entire Community Relations Committee, it is very exciting to think it is possible for our Board of 21/22 to make positive, lasting changes in this coming year that will enhance the health and safety of community.

SECTION 2

To: Board of Directors, Hillsboro Cove Homeowners Association
From: Community Relations Committee
Pesticide-Free Hillsboro Cove Community
Subcommittee (Bonnie Cristo, Louise Paulsen)
Date: January 13, 2021, date distributed to BOD
January 21, 2021, date presented by Louise Paulsen to BOD

VISION

Pesticide-Free Hillsboro Cove Community: Live in a community where **homeowners, pets, and wildlife** can enjoy an earth-friendly environment free of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

GOALS

- Adopt a 100% earth-friendly landscape
- Establish a reputation as a community that promotes the health of our homeowners and surrounding landscape
- Gain support in this effort by our community
- 100% support of the Board of Directors

DANGERS OF PESTICIDES

We understand that the Board members are sensitive to the concerns of members of our community regarding chemicals that are being used in our landscape and that they are working to meet everyone's needs. The Community Relations Committee recognizes these concerns and has formed a sub-committee to help support the Board in addressing alternatives to pesticides (chemicals including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides), herbicides (weed control), and insecticides (insect control).

Pesticides are toxic substances that may pose a health risk to our **families, pets and wildlife**. The chemicals we are contracted to use are designed to negatively impact various life processes putting our community at risk to toxic exposure.

Here is a list of the chemicals that TruGreen was scheduled to apply to our landscape in 2020. The Safety Data Sheets, Material Safety Data Sheets and Product Labels for these products are summarized in the table below. They carry notices of **DANGER, WARNING and CAUTION**.

• Acclaim Extra	• OMNI Supreme Spray
• Change Up	• TriStar 8.5L
• .29% Barricade	• 228.740 Engulf
• 0.2 Merit with Fertilizer TCS	• Azatin O 70051-9-59807
• Floramite SC-LS	• Conserve SC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage WDG 	
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Chemicals DO NOT stay put after their application and can be transported over long distances rapidly through wind, rain, and stormwater run-off. Chemicals that are applied by spray can drift, and if their vapors are inhaled can be poisonous and toxic. If exposed to our eyes, skin, or clothing, they can cause allergic reactions to **homeowners and their pets**. Because of our location, they are hazardous to the aquatic environment in Irondequoit Bay and Lake Ontario; furthermore, they can contaminate our drinking water. The fertilizers cause rapid algae growth.

Many chemicals persist in our environment not for hours, days, or months, but for many years accumulating over time. Our **residents, pets and wildlife** can absorb these toxic substances through air, soil, landscape and contaminated water source exposure leading to diseases and other adverse effects.

We would like to eliminate this exposure.

Our recent contract is not working which we can visually witness by the unhealthy appearance of many of our lawns, trees, and shrubs. We see there is no such thing as a weed-free or insect-free lawn. We need to understand this before making an educated and informed decision on how to have the healthiest landscape in our community. Pesticides are not a quick-fix solution. Most insect and weed problems are signs our landscape is not getting what it needs.

EPA APPROVED PRODUCT LABEL FOR PRODUCTS SCHEDULED FOR USE AT HILLSBORO COVE IN 2020

The product labels, material safety data sheets and/or safety data sheets are summarized in the table below and regulated by three governmental organizations: The Environmental Protection Agency, The World Health Organization and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

Signal Words indicate the relative acute toxicity of the product to humans, and a link for each product is provided for you to reference.

- Toxicity category I is Highly toxic and Severely irritating: DANGER
- Toxicity category II is Moderately toxic and Moderately irritating: WARNING
- Toxicity category III is Slightly toxic and Slightly irritating: CAUTION
- Toxicity category IV is practically non-toxic and not an irritant: none required

The recommended classification of pesticides by hazard, categorizes pesticide active ingredients according to their acute oral and dermal toxicity (that is, the hazard of single or multiple exposure over a relatively short period of time). This classification does *not* address long term exposures, even at low levels.

Hazard Statements provide more specific information for each product as noted in the table.

Signal words, hazard statements and precautionary statements are required for EVERY label of the chemicals that are applied in our community and we use products from all four toxicity categories. These hazards should concern us all.

Chemical Trade Name	Signal Word	Hazard Statement	Environmental Hazards
Acclaim Extra Bayer Herbicide	DANGER	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways. Causes eye irritation.	This pesticide is toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates. For terrestrial uses, do not apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark. Do not apply when weather conditions favor runoff or drift. https://www.environmentalscience.bayer.us/-/media/prf/unitedstates/documents/resource-library/sds/acclaim_extra_herbicide.ashx
Change Up Nufarm Selective Herbicide	DANGER	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS Harmful if swallowed. May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways. Causes serious eye irritation. Causes skin irritation.	This pesticide is toxic to fish, aquatic invertebrates and aquatic plants. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present, or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark. Drift and runoff may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in water adjacent to treated areas. Runoff of this product will be reduced by avoiding applications when rainfall is forecasted to occur within 48 hours. This chemical has properties and characteristics associated with chemicals detected in groundwater. The use of this chemical in areas where soils are permeable, particularly where the water table is shallow, may result in groundwater contamination. https://brandt.co/media/9595/change-up-sds.pdf
.29% Barricade Selective Herbicide	WARNING	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS May cause an allergic skin reaction. May cause drowsiness or dizziness. Suspected of causing cancer. May cause damage to organs through repeated and prolonged use.	This product has low solubility in water. At the limits of solubility, this product is not toxic to fish. However, at concentrations above the level of water solubility, it may be toxic to fish. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark. Drift and runoff from treated areas may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in adjacent sites. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash waters. http://www.businesscenter.lebsea.com/MSDSPDF/2154335.pdf
0.2 Merit with Fertilizer TCS	CAUTION	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS Harmful if swallowed or absorbed through the skin. Causes eye irritation.	This product is highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates. Do not apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash waters. This chemical demonstrates the properties and characteristics associated with chemicals detected in ground water. The use of this chemical in areas where soils are permeable, particularly where the water table is shallow, may result in groundwater contamination. http://www.cdms.net/ldat/mpa5b001.pdf
Floramite SC-LS Ornamental Miticide	WARNING	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS May cause sensitization by skin contact. May cause eye irritation.	This pesticide is toxic to birds, estuarine/marine invertebrates, and fish. To protect the environment, do not allow pesticide to enter or run off into storm drains, drainage ditches, gutters or surface waters. Applying this product in calm weather when rain is not predicted for the next 24 hours will help ensure that wind or rain does not blow or wash pesticide off the treatment area. Rinsing application equipment over the treated area will help avoid run off to water bodies or drainage systems. This product is

Chemical Trade Name	Signal Word	Hazard Statement	Environmental Hazards
			toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment. Do not apply this product while bees are foraging the treatment area. https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/agrian-cg-fs1-production/pdfs/Floramite_SCLS_MSDS2.pdf
Heritage WDG Fungicide Broad Spectrum	DANGER	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS May cause respiratory irritation. May cause cancer. Causes damage to organs through repeated and prolonged exposure.	This pesticide is toxic to freshwater and estuarine/marine fish and aquatic invertebrates. Azoxystrobin can be persistent for several months or longer. https://label.westernpest.com/files_techservices/live/syngenta.heritageG062615.sds.pdf
OMNI Supreme Spray Insecticide-Miticide Narrow Range Spray Oil	DANGER	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS May be harmful if swallowed. May be harmful in contact with skin. Causes eye irritation. Causes mild skin irritation. May be harmful if inhaled. May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways.	This product is toxic to fish. Do not apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark. Drift and runoff may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in water adjacent to treated areas. https://assets.greenbook.net/M38858.pdf
TriStar 8.5L Insecticide	WARNING	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS Harmful if swallowed, absorbed through the skin or inhaled. Avoid breathing vapors or spray mist.	This product is toxic to wildlife. This product is very toxic to bees. Do not apply this product while bees are visiting the treated area. Do not apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark. SPRAY DRIFT Avoid spray drift. Do not apply when weather conditions may cause drift. Do not allow this product to drift on to non-target areas. To avoid spray drift, DO NOT apply aerially when wind speed is greater than 10 mph or during periods of temperature inversions. For aerial application, select nozzles and pressure that deliver MEDIUM spray droplets as indicated in nozzle manufacturer's catalogs and in accordance with ASAE Standard S-572. https://www.domyown.com/msds/TriStar_8_35_SL_SDS_2_020.pdf
Azatin O 70051-9-59807 Biologic Insecticide	CAUTION	KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS Avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing. Harmful if swallowed or inhaled. Avoid breathing vapors or spray mist.	This product may be hazardous to fish and aquatic invertebrates. For terrestrial uses: Do not apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present, or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark. https://assets.greenbook.net/M116792.pdf
Conserve SC	*	*This material is not hazardous under the criteria	This product is toxic to bees exposed to treatment during the 3 hours following treatment. Do not apply this pesticide to blooming, pollen-shedding or nectar-producing parts of

Chemical Trade Name	Signal Word	Hazard Statement	Environmental Hazards
Insecticide		of the OSHA Communication Criteria.	<p>plants if bees may forage on the plants during this time period. This product is toxic to aquatic invertebrates. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present, or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark.</p> <p>NOTE: Conserve SC is recommended for IPM programs including insect control on turfgrass and ornamentals. Other than reducing the target pest species as a food source, Conserve SC does not significantly impact the natural predaceous arthropod complexes including ladybird beetles, lacewings, minute pirate. bug, and predatory mites. The feeding activities of these predatory beneficials will aid in the control of the other insect pests and reduce the likelihood of secondary pest outbreaks.</p> <p>http://www.cdms.net/ldat/mp24P000.pdf</p>
228.740 Engulf Miticide/Insecticide	CAUTION	<p>KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS</p> <p>Harmful if swallowed. Harmful if inhaled. Avoid breathing spray mist. Prolonged or frequently repeated skin contact may cause allergic reactions in some individuals.</p>	<p>This pesticide is toxic to birds, estuarine/marine invertebrates and fish. Do not apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present, or to intertidal areas below the mean highwater mark. This product is moderately toxic to bees and other pollinating insects exposed to direct treatment or to residues in/on blooming crops or weeds. Protect pollinating insects by following label directions intended to minimize drift and to reduce pesticide risk to these organisms. Do not apply this product while bees are foraging the treatment area.</p> <p>Engulf SDS.pdf (horticentre.co.nz) and US EPA, Pesticide Product Label, ENGULF Miticide/Insecticide,03/22/2018</p>

ALTERNATIVE: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

FOR THE LAWN CARE CONTRACTOR TO CONSIDER: These safe practices maximize the use of natural solutions.

Routine chemicals are not necessary. We can stop our chemical program and still have beautiful lawns. We may initially experience an increase in weeds; however, this will change as the healthy grass crowds them out. Once restored, it is still important to replenish the soil nutrients. A lawn in transition may need more fertilizer (testing our soil to find out for sure through Cornell Cooperative Extension), but as our soil gets healthier, the fertilizer requirement will decrease.

Our best defense is the mower. Taller grass (mowed to approximately 3") will help prevent weeds by shading out the competition. Be sure the mower blade is sharp or it will rip and tear the grass blades, which invites disease.

Prevent weed germination organically. Corn gluten meal can help prevent weed seeds from germinating, particularly crabgrass. Corn gluten is a natural by-product of the wet milling process of corn. Apply to trouble areas in the early spring before the forsythia blooms (do not apply at the same time as grass seed). Corn gluten contains 10% nitrogen, so be careful to avoid over-fertilization. Corn gluten may require up to three years of application to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Overseed to crowd out weeds. Weeds are opportunistic and will take advantage of any thin or bare spots in our lawns. Overseeding a thin lawn will thicken it up and crowd out the weeds. Early Spring or Fall are the best times to overseed.

Follow these five easy steps, and repeat annually for best results:

1. **Buy** a drought-tolerant variety that has a high percentage of turf-type tall fescues.
2. **Rake** lawns to get rid of the dead grass. This will help the new seeds to grow and allow the air, sunlight and rainwater to give our existing lawns new life. The old grass can be recycled in our compost pile.
3. **Compost** the lawn with $\frac{1}{4}$ " of compost (or more in bare spots) before overseeding, but only if our soil test indicates we need to add nutrients. This will help the seeds germinate, take root and grow quickly.
4. **Spread** the grass seeds using a mechanical spreader. Set it at a light setting and go over our lawns several times for the best coverage.
5. **Water** the new seeds generously to get them started. The seedlings will need to stay moist for a couple of weeks or they will die. Usually in the spring and fall, Mother Nature will take care of this, but if not, give the overseeded areas of our lawns a quick drink every few days.

If insect problems persist, seek professional help. Before spending money on insecticides, first improve your maintenance techniques by following the recommendations from Beyond Pesticides (<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/managesafe/choose-a-pest>). If insect problems persist, seek advice from Cornell Cooperative Extension and follow their instructions for selecting insecticides for a specific pest, **not a broadcast control that could kill beneficial insects**. Follow their recommendations for using organic controls such as insecticidal soaps, beneficial nematodes, and/or milky spore powder.

Landscape Alternatives: Choose Low Maintenance Plants with deep roots that are naturally resistant to drought, weeds, disease, and require little maintenance once established. A trusted landscape professional or master gardener from Cornell Cooperative Extension can provide us with this information. Using groundcovers around trees and landscaped areas will help with irrigation, are highly attractive, do not have to be replaced yearly, and can be used in place of, or in addition to, areas previously mulched.

Safer, Pesticide-Free Insect and Weed Control. Use non-toxic or less toxic methods for both pest or weed control. These can include mechanical or cultural methods, safer products or natural predators such as ladybugs or nematodes. Use the [Beyond Pesticides Pest and Weed Database](#) to find our pest or weed and learn how to safely control it. Choose fertilizers and mulches that do not contain herbicides or insecticides. If we need fertilizers, avoid "weed and feed" products as they contain harmful herbicides. Unlike synthetic fertilizers, natural or plant-based fertilizers are great choices that are slow release and improve soil health. Some mulch products are treated with herbicides and should be avoided.

Non-chemical, organic gardening and landscaping practices are always the best option for **people, pets, wildlife**, and our environment. However, if chemicals are needed as a last resort in the case of detrimental and difficult-to-remove invasive or out of control infestations, we can use a targeted pesticide that breaks down quickly.

Read your weeds: A simple guide to creating a healthy lawn. Weeds can tell you a lot about the condition of our lawns and indicate what we need to do to grow healthy grass that is naturally resistant to weeds and pest problems. Learn to read our "weeds" for what they indicate about our lawns care practices and soil conditions, and we'll be on our way to creating healthy lawns that will be less work in the long run. Reading weeds is actually very simple. First, know that weeds thrive in soil that is compacted, poorly fertilized, and not pH balanced; also, in lawns that are improperly watered, seeded, and mowed. Synthetic fertilizers and chemical pesticides also lead to undesirable conditions, which restricts water and air movement in the soil. High nitrogen fertilizers can disrupt the nutrient balance, accelerate turf growth, increase the need for mowing and contribute to thatch buildup. Pesticides harm the microorganisms, beneficial insects and earthworms that are essential to maintaining healthy soil, and therefore, healthy turf.

ALTERNATIVE IS INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT, Continued

FOR THE HOMEOWNER TO CONSIDER: This is for the homeowner who is inclined to go above and beyond as they are willing and able.

Reconsider your definition of “weed.”

Dandelions and Clover provide our lawns with nutrients. Regular mowing will keep these plants from taking over our lawns. Remember that a “weed” is defined as any plant that exists where you don’t want it – consider accepting a variety of plants in our lawns, and we won’t have “weeds” at all. Let go of the idea of the “perfect lawn.” The “perfect lawn” is a monoculture that is only achievable with a great deal of harmful chemicals and water usage. Instead, move towards a healthy lawn and soil system that doesn't require harmful chemicals and is safer for the whole family and for wildlife. Consider leaving some clovers, dandelions, and wildflowers for bees and pollinators to forage. White clovers are especially beneficial as they also add nitrogen to the soil, reducing the need for fertilizers. If you are concerned about bee stings, mow the lawn to remove flower heads before people enter the lawn area.

If we have a few weeds, eliminate them before they spread. Use the “ounce of prevention” approach to weeds – if we stop them from developing, we won’t have a million to deal with. Look for weed seedlings every time we mow and persistently eliminate them before they get a foothold and spread. Pull them out by hand using a weed fork, making sure to remove the whole plant and the long taproot. To treat recurring weeds, use a vinegar-based herbicide.

Encourage natural predators. Put up bird feeders and bat houses to attract natural predators of insects. Birds and bats in your yard will consume insects by the thousands and provide us with entertainment too. Attracting birds and bats will not increase the likelihood of them moving into our attic or wall spaces.

Compost: Keep our landscape healthy by using compost. The best way to raise healthy plants is to have healthy soil, and the best way to have healthy soil is to enrich it with high-quality compost. Using compost adds essential minerals and nutrients, improves soil structure, allows better root growth, and increases moisture and nutrient retention in the soil. Making our own compost reduces the volume of garbage to be landfilled, and saves us money on disposal costs and fertilizer purchases.

Dispose of unused pesticides wisely. Pesticides are considered “household hazardous waste”. Due to their toxicity and potential to pollute water resources, it is illegal to dispose of unwanted pesticides with the trash and you must take them to a Household Hazardous Waste collection event. For Monroe County that is EcoPark.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Community Relations Committee (CRC) will provide to the Board and RPG the contact information for Organic Management Landscape Companies.
- RPG will establish a contractual relationship with one of these companies. This will be done in coordination with the CRC, the Board and RPG.
- Our contract management company will practice natural alternatives which include:
 - Perform soil analysis
 - Compost and over-seed. CRC will get info to obtain compost.
 - Cut grass at approximately 3" level
- CRC will develop and implement an educational awareness program for our community resulting in widespread support of our Green efforts.

RESOURCES

CONTRACTORS FOR RPG TO CONSIDER:

T.L.C. Organic Lawn Care
Tim Wiesmore
585-594-3311
<http://www.tlcorganiclawn.com>

Lawn Doctor
585-338-1520
https://www.lawndoctor.com/rochester-ny/?utm_source=gmb&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=Qiigo

Innovative Pest Management
585-434-0132
<https://innovativepestmanagementcorp.com>

Rochester Pest Experts. A Greener Alternative.
585-299-1065.
<https://www.pestcontrol-rochesterny.com/index.cfm?Page=Residential>

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

BEYOND PESTICIDES. Retrieve from <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/>

BEYOND PESTICIDES. Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database. Retrieve from <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/pesticide-induced-diseases-database/overview>

CAMEO Chemicals.NOAA.Gov. Hydrazine. Retrieve from <https://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/chemical/5019>

Category 1-4 Classification. Retrieve from <https://www.osha.gov.Publications/OSHA3844.pdf>

Cornell Cooperative Extension. Monroe County. Horticulture. Retrieve from <http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/horticulture>

Democrat & Chronicle. A Greener Lawn (in more ways than one). Retrieve from <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/lifestyle/2017/11/09/greener-lawn-in-more-ways-than-one/841040001/>

Explore Chemistry. National Library of Medicine. National Center for Biotechnology Information. Retrieve from <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

Hydrazine. Retrieve from <https://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/chemical/5019>

Hydrazine. Cautionary response information. Retrieve from <https://cameochemicals.noaa.gov.chris.HDA.pdf>

Non-Toxic Cities. Retrieve from <http://www.nontoxiccommunities.com/cities.html>

Pesticides 101. Retrieve from

[http://www.nontoxiccommunities.com/uploads/7/0/8/2/7082006/ntc_pesticides_101_pressqu
ality.pdf](http://www.nontoxiccommunities.com/uploads/7/0/8/2/7082006/ntc_pesticides_101_pressqu
ality.pdf)

Pesticide Free Pittsford. Retrieve from <https://www.facebook.com/Pesticide-Free-Pittsford-1186370348192947/>

Rochester Environment.com. Our Environment is changing: Keep up with the Change. *Note: Henceforth 'environment' means "our life support system." Updated Daily. Retrieve from <http://www.rochesterenvironment.com/>

Rochester Environment.com. Pesticides & Herbicides – Rochester, NY area. Retrieve from <https://rochesterenvironment.com/pesticides.htm>

University of Rochester Medical Center. Time to Fertilize? Wait a Minute! Retrieve from <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?contenttypeid=1&contentid=1190>

SECTION 3

Vendors researched by Louise Paulsen; sent to board in an email on 1/21/2021

STRONG CONTENDER FOR LAWN CARE

T.L.C. Organic Lawn Care

Tim Wiesmore

585-594-3311

<http://www.tlorganiclawn.com>

12/28/2020, 1:30: called but message is to go to website and complete contact form. Did so and submitted.

1/4/21, 10:30am: Tim returned my call.

- He can do 100% natural
- He can do a hybrid for a transitional approach
- Four applications a year, once every 6-8 weeks. This is natural fertilizer that he purchases from Jonathan Green organics. Can look up online.

Jonathan Green Organic Lawn Food is a complex, entirely organic lawn fertilizer that promotes the growth of healthy grass. The homogenous, easy-to-spread granules contain food-grade organics such as feather meal, soybean meal, and blood meal. Organic Lawn Food has no undesirable manures or sludge-based fertilizers unlike many other organic fertilizer products. It can be used on both established and newly seeded or sodded lawns in the spring, summer or fall.

The organic approach to lawn care requires some patience. The soil microbes need time to break down the fertilizer nutrients so they can be absorbed by the grass roots. However, organic feeding definitely has its perks. For example, due to the absence of fast-release synthetic ingredients, this fertilizer won't burn the grass and children and pets may use the lawn immediately after Organic Lawn Food has been applied.

- He said the price is about double the chemicals, but he has some leeway, especially since we are such a big HOA.
- Weed control is also expensive for the 100% natural. They do spot treatment. It is all designed for a slow easy break down of the weeds
- For the hybrid, weed control would be synthetic.
- They also do mowing, if interested. They like this because they can keep an eye on how the lawns are doing.
- His work is 95% residential but has a couple HOAs;
- Brighton Estates on Wintergreen Way and a small one on Santiago Street in Corn Hill.
 - Annie Karney of Integrated Facility Solutions [the property management company for Brighton Estates (585 872-4611)] researched and found TLC Organic Lawn Care.

- They have two years experience with TLC. First year did a hybrid. Board wanted 100% and last year did so. This year will better be able to assess results of 100%.
- Cost is double and worth every penny. Per Annie and Board. Annie has contracted with Tim for other HOAs also but not enough history to comment yet.
- Her personal opinion is that the hybrid is a good solution to reduce footprint by 75% and still control weeds with spot application of synthetic.
- Tim Wiesmore is the owner of TLC and contact person. Annie is very happy to work with Tim. She cannot say enough about his communication, quick responses, problem solving and good follow through.

MY COMMENTS

Tim was interested in knowing what we currently spend on fertilization, which is budgeted for \$13,482 for 2021. He estimates it cost double so a budget for fertilizing would be \$27,000 or an increase in the budget of 4%. However, I expect he could come in quite a bit lower to get our business. I am not free to share those figures with him but I do have a call into him to pursue further interest on both our parts.

1/18/21, 10:00am: I spoke to Tim again. I let him know I would be sharing all the information I had gathered about him and his work to the Board. He is well equipped to take on a project of this size and would be happy to present to the Board or work with RPG to offer a quote.

Lawn Doctor

585-338-1520

https://www.lawndoctor.com/rochester-ny/?utm_source=gmb&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=Qiigo

1/4/21 12:00 left message. Adam returned my call on 1/4/21.

They have a variety of treatment plans. The standard is four treatments per season. He can go all natural, but most clients are put off by the weeds. They also have a hybrid plan which is also four treatments. The first two treatments have the natural fertilizer in addition to chemical weed control that I believe is broad spectrum. The final two treatments of the year are all natural. He wants to give us an estimate. I was less enthused by this organization. They are less committed to natural solutions and I am not fond of the broad spectrum weed control. We do need to pursue. I have a call into him to follow up.

PEST CONTROL

Rochester Pest Experts

585-299-1065

They do pest control associated with the building, not the lawn or surround. They do have an all natural product that takes a little longer.

Bartlett Pest Management

585-385-4060

Name of this company was forwarded by Cooperative Extension to Bonnie. They do no lawn work. Building structures only.

Innovative Pest Management

585-434-0132

They go for the least intrusive. Do use synthetic but can use natural but it is not as long lasting. They control pests associated with the building structure indoor or out but not the lawn or shrubs or trees. Certainly, the natural is not their focus. Otherwise, would be happy to work with them. Have big name clients and this is an African American owned and operated company.

NOT OPTIONS

~~Nature's Lawn & Garden, Inc.~~

Stuart Franklin, President. 716-681-7793.

Retrieve from info@natureslawn.com

1/4/21, 12:35: They do have organic fertilizer but not weed control. They DO NOT service Webster. They are based in Buffalo.

~~Carbon Cutters~~

Steven Popp

585-377-3334

12/28/2020, 1:30 and

1/4/21: Recorder answered when I called. They were not accepting any phone messages???

~~Ashland Pest Control.~~

Richard Muscarella, Vice President of Operations.

716-884-7431

Retrieve from <http://www.pestsite.com> and

<https://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/safety-source-on-pesticide-providers/find-a-service-provider/search-by-state?searchco=13&searchstate=NY>

1/4/21 12:30: Richard Muscarella passed away about 7 years ago and the company has since been run by his wife. She will call me when she gets in. They are not a lawn care company, only a pest control company. They do have natural options.

1/13/21: Marty Muscarella returned my call. They hope to get into lawn treatment at some point but that is not a service they offer.