

**Public Works Policy    City-wide Integrated Pest Management Plan (Herbicides and Pesticide Use)**

- General Administration**
- Capital Improvement Projects**
- Facility Maintenance**
- Inspection**
- Current Development**

**POLICY AUTHORITY**

The City Council approved a City-wide policy regarding the use of herbicides and pesticides at its February 9, 2010 meeting.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

The use of herbicides and pesticides, whether by City personnel or those under contract to the City, shall conform to the attached City-wide policy, as well as specific Public Works amendments.

**POLICY REASON**

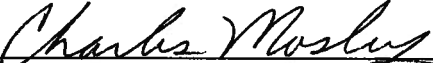
The use of pesticides, while necessary to the efficient maintenance of public areas, must be done in a way that considers employee, public and environmental health, as well as efficient use of chemicals so as to minimize waste.

**PROCEDURES**

The policy shall be adhered to. Work programs, procedures, and contracts shall be reviewed for compliance with the policy adopted by the City Council.

**MEASURES**

This policy's success is measured by the fact that those City personnel involved with application of pesticides or herbicides (directly or in a supervisory capacity) are familiar with the requirements of the policy, and are adhering to those policies and this policy.

  
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Approved by **Charles Mosley**  
**Public Works Director/City Engineer**

Date: **April 1, 2010**

Revised: **May 23, 2011**

Revised: **August 23, 2011**

Revised: **June 11, 2012**

**City of Sedona Administrative Policy  
Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)**

**Introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

This IPM policy describes a City-wide guideline for control of fertilizer and pesticide use by the Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments. The Public Works and Parks and Recreation Department are responsible for the maintenance of parks, buildings, and roadside landscape and plant material.

The policy requires implementation of a source control program, whose goal is to minimize the application of pesticides, and fertilizers, while accomplishing an aesthetic and functional environment for the City's parks, building, and right of ways. The goal is a beautiful, sustainable, landscape and grounds with no probable significant environmental impact. This policy is also consistent with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requirements and the City's Stormwater Management Plan to minimize stormwater pollution.

"Pests" are defined as undesirable plants, insects, fungus or bacteria, rodents, or similar life forms that are present at levels that destroy, or threaten to destroy, habitat the City is trying to maintain at sustainable and aesthetic levels.

"Pesticides" include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and rodenticides. Pesticides may be Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved or non-EPA approved, and the use of pesticides will be considered only after alternative control methods have failed. As used in this policy, non-EPA approved pesticides, which are naturally occurring substances, can be used regardless of concentration. Non-EPA pesticides are also known as Alternative pesticides and may include natural salts, vinegars, and vitamins.

"Fertilizers" include inorganic, organic, and synthetic organic based materials. Inorganic materials are normally composed of fast release compounds that dissolve easily in water and are most susceptible to leaching through the soil. Organic fertilizers are derived from natural organic compounds such as sewage sludge, manure, blood or bone meal, etc., and breakdown very slowly and safely in the environment. Synthetic Organics are a combination of inorganic materials and a long chain carbon base, such as methylene or isobutal, to create a slow release product. The use of organic fertilizers will be the preferred product for all applications.

"IPM" may be defined as a plan to maintain pest populations at levels below those that cause unacceptable economic or aesthetic injury, utilizing multiple tactics that minimize hazards to humans, animals, or other non-target life forms. The use of fertilizers, proper

irrigation management, and standard cultural practices are considered part of this management plan since healthy plants are less susceptible to pests, and managing the growth of desirable plants may impede the growth of undesirable plants.

### **General Guidelines**

This IPM policy is an outline, and is not intended to be a substitute for the supervisor's experience with the unique conditions present within the various sites throughout the City. Supervisors are expected to consult references and specialized publications for details on specific pests and plant development patterns, and to keep current with state of the art maintenance procedures. All applicators (City staff or contracted staff) of any pesticide must be licensed by the State of Arizona Office of Pest Management (OPM) and will adhere to all local, state, and federal regulations, as well as all instructions on the pesticide and fertilizer labels.

Only Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved pesticides or alternate pesticides will be used on City of Sedona property, whether inside or outside the City limits. This includes easement areas when City staff or contractors are performing the work.

The use of pesticides and fertilizers will only be considered after alternative sustainable control methods have been adequately evaluated. Pesticides or fertilizers use near or within natural, wetland, or environmentally sensitive areas, if necessary, will be timed to minimize or eliminate stormwater or other water pollution.

Pesticides and fertilizers shall be applied at locations and rates in a manner consistent with the manufacturer's directions for the product. Lower application rates shall be preferred, if effective, and specified as approved by the product label. These substances will be stored, handled, and disposed of in accordance with OPM and EPA regulations, OSHA regulations, and manufacturer's instructions.

Application equipment must be properly calibrated and checked frequently for accuracy. Anyone that handles pesticides or fertilizers must first read and understand all labeling associated with that pesticide and must follow all instructions associated with the label. This shall apply not only to application instructions, but also to the use of proper protective equipment and limitation of public contact, or re-entry, within the treated areas.

Pesticide and fertilizer applications will not be made when unfavorable weather conditions are forecasted. Staff should be familiar with the species to be treated, thoroughly understand the pesticide and fertilizer characteristics, and work with the weather at all times.

A pest tolerance level is the level of pest density above which unacceptable aesthetic or economic damage will result. It is also known as the action level because it may trigger action taken to control a pest problem. Tolerance levels will vary depending on the area

involved and the expectations associated with those areas. Pesticide use shall be appropriate to the tolerance level.

Pesticides or fertilizers will only be applied after evaluating the substance for its environmental impact. Effective substances with lower environmental impact shall be preferred over those with higher impact, provided that their use is sustainable.

Complete records must be kept for each pesticide application and all pesticide storage and disposal must be performed according to OPM guidelines. Records must be kept on file for a minimum of three years.

In order to assure that alternative sustainable control methods are not being overlooked, the use of pesticides and fertilizers in various settings shall be subject to re-evaluation.

### **Parks\***

The Public Works Department\* is responsible for the maintenance of public parks within the City of Sedona, including the Uptown Parking Lot.

The IPM plan follows this approach:

1. Identify the target pest or intended plant to be managed.
2. Establish tolerance levels and action plans for each pest or plant.
3. Develop reliable monitoring programs for pest detection or effective plant growth pattern.
4. Use industry standard maintenance and cultural practices to provide a healthy ecosystem that is naturally pest resistant and provides adequate plant growth.
5. Make pest control and fertilizing decisions based on the above information.
6. This plan does not prefer the use of preventative pesticides. Instead, a high level of monitoring is recommended for early detection along with the use of proper cultural practices to minimize the need for pesticides and fertilizers.
7. Use of herbicides in Posse Grounds Park and Sunset Park may occur in any month provided that such use is necessary to maintain the health of the park grounds and landscaping. Spraying in other parks shall be subject to the guidelines for Other City Facilities, unless approved by the Public Works Director as necessary to manage, or control, pest and vegetative issues in accordance with the City Parks maintenance standards.\*
8. Use of herbicides in Parks shall be announced on the landscape hotline, in accordance with guidelines for the hotline under Other City Facilities.\*
9. Exceptions to this policy shall be subject to approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation.

### **Establishment of Pest Tolerance Levels**

For Parks and Recreation, the Maintenance Level of Standards outlines the specific levels of quality that are to be maintained throughout all grounds and landscape areas. The IPM plan will be used as one of many tools to help achieve the proper level of maintenance standards throughout all of the City properties.

## **Other City Facilities\***

The Public Works Department maintains City of Sedona rights of way (streets and drainages), City Hall grounds, City buildings and the Wastewater system (buildings and pipes).

### **Procedures**

1. The General Guidelines shall be adhered to.
2. Frequency of herbicide use shall be as necessary to control invasive plant species, to control vegetation on City right-of-way and storage reservoir dams in accordance with applicable regulations, to maintain free-flowing stormwater drainage, and to provide safe, accessible work areas for staff.
3. Subject to item 5 and 6 below, use of EPA-approved herbicides within the City limits is restricted to the months of February, April, June, August, and October unless necessary to address vegetation infestations.
4. Use of alternative herbicide is allowed during any month from February through October.
5. Use of any EPA-approved pesticides or alternative pesticides is allowed at any time as single use applications for ground preparation under landscaping fabric and rock.
6. The use of EPA or non-EPA approved pesticides in buildings shall be allowed at all times, however their use shall be minimized sufficient to control outbreaks of pests.
7. Manual weed control measures shall be the preferred means of controlling vegetative growth in small areas.
8. Exceptions to this policy shall be approved by the City Engineer. This includes use in other than City right-of-way maintenance and storm drainage channel maintenance. Typically such use shall be based on actions necessary to respond to actual vegetation, bug, insect, or rodent infestations.
- \*9. The hours of application of herbicides shall be limited to the start of the workday and ending at noon of the same day.
- \*10. A landscape hotline (928-203-5101) shall be utilized to inform the general public of the application of herbicides.
  - a. The hotline shall be updated on a weekly basis stating what work areas and when (days and times) herbicide will be applied.
  - b. The descriptions of the work areas must list what neighborhoods, subdivisions and cross streets where the applications will be taking place. Generalizations such as "north of SR 89A" shall not be used.
  - c. Work must be restricted to those areas on the landscape hotline.
  - d. The landscape hotline shall incorporate a rolling four-week time period which lists what areas will be sprayed in each of those four weeks. *Schedule changes that result in less than four weeks' notice of spraying an area shall be considered an exception to this Policy, requiring approval by the City Engineer.*
  - e. A phone number for those having questions shall be provided.
  - f. If someone contacts the City after a spray event affecting their residence has been announced and does not want the area adjacent to their residence

sprayed, they shall be advised that they must trim the area prior to a specified date. A written notation shall be made on the work order for the spraying that the residence is not to be sprayed if the trimming has been accomplished. The completed work order shall note if the area was sprayed or not. The person shall be advised that the notice must be renewed for each spray event in their area.

- \*11. Herbicides shall be selectively applied to areas showing evidence of weed growth. No broadcasting of large areas in residential areas shall be permitted.
- \*12. In order to minimize drift, herbicides shall not be applied when the wind speed exceeds seven mph or is predicted to consistently exceed the five to ten (5 – 10) mph range. While spraying, measurement of wind speed shall be by use of a handheld anemometer. The City of Sedona weather station at Posse Ground Park and local weather forecasts will be checked early in the morning prior to commencement of spraying.

### **Measures of Success**

The success of this policy will be measured by minimal use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers, in compliance with ADEQ and OPM requirements.

Approved by City Council February 9, 2010

\* denotes Public Works Department amendments