

Worthington Schools
USE OF PESTICIDES

The Worthington Board of Education is committed to assure the proper use and control of pesticides and fertilizers which might be stored and applied on district premises. All applications and storage of pesticides will be in accordance with all Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency requirements. Alternative products will be considered and evaluated prior to applications. Student, staff, and public safety, while maintaining district facilities, is the priority in the development of this regulation.

The following specific guidelines will be used by district staff and contractors when pesticides or alternative products are used.

1. An Integrated Pest Management Program (I.P.M.) will be developed and implemented to reduce the use of pesticides. Cultural practices, including mowing height and frequency, aeration, overseeding, and fertilization, will be used to improve turfgrass density and reduce weed growth.
2. Structural and lawn chemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers will be chosen with as low level of toxicity as practical. The least toxic or organic formulation with the safest method of application will be selected when there is a choice of products with comparable cost and effectiveness. Products labeled Caution are to be considered prior to the use of products labeled Warning or Danger.
3. Long term storage of chemicals will be kept to a minimum. Since many chemicals lose effectiveness with storage and storage further increases risk, only enough of the product for a given application will be purchased. All materials will be stored in accordance with label instructions. All such products and application equipment will be stored in a separate facility away from classrooms and food preparation or storage areas. Storage facilities will be inaccessible to students and the general public and will be clearly marked as pesticide storage.
4. All chemicals will have complete label instructions and will remain in the original containers until used. Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS) and sample labels for lawn chemicals will be kept on file in the office of the district Landscape Specialist and will be readily available to anyone who must handle such materials or who may be exposed to the product. Structural pesticide labels and MSDS will be filed in the Landscape Maintenance office.
5. All application of pesticides and fertilizers will be made in strict compliance with the label instructions and under no circumstance will the product concentrations exceed those specified in the application instructions.
6. An annual written plan of seasonal applications will be distributed to building administrators and kept on file in the district's Facility Management Services office. The plan will contain the following information:
 - a. The season of the application
 - b. The purpose of the application

- c. The product to be used
 - d. The formulation of the product
 - e. The district site and specific area to be treated
 - f. The type of equipment to be used
 - g. An estimate of the amount of product to be used
 - h. Any requirements necessary to comply with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency including any warning or notification signs.
7. All chemicals or organic product will be applied at times that individuals are not in the immediate area or scheduled to use district facilities within a 24-hour period.
8. A sign will be posted to notify staff and residents of pending applications on each site seven days prior to the target application date identified in the seasonal application plan. The sign will include a phone number which can be used to request additional information.
9. Treated school grounds will be posted with the date and time of the application, product used, and re-entry date and time.
10. Records will be kept in the Facility Management Services office following each application and will contain the following information:
- a. Name of certified applicator supervising and the name of trained serviceman making application
 - b. Date of application and re-entry date when applicable
 - c. District site and specific area to be treated
 - d. Pest to be controlled
 - e. Size of site to be treated
 - f. Trade name (brand name) and EPA registration number of pesticides to be used
 - g. Total amount of each pesticide to be used
 - h. Rate of application and concentration of pesticide formulation applied
 - i. Type of equipment used
 - j. Time of day, including the time of starting the actual application and the time of completion or, if uncompleted, the time when operations ceased for the day
 - k. Wind direction and velocity, air temperature and other weather conditions when applicable
11. District employee(s) responsible for handling and applying pesticides will be required to have a valid pesticide application license issued by the Ohio Department of Agriculture or under the direct supervision of a licensed applicator as permitted by ODA guidelines.
12. No school support groups, i.e. PTA, PTO, athletic boosters, will be permitted to apply chemical controls or fertilizers on district property.
13. Any contract services requiring the use of pesticides or any other lawn chemical will abide with board policy and administrative regulations.

(Approval date:)

Worthington City Schools, Worthington, Ohio