



WCHA

Herbicide Policy of Wisconsin Cooperative Housing Association

June 2, 2008

A. General Guidelines

1. The strategy for controlling exotic species in the Crestwood woods is:
 - (i) Manage our woods so that healthy soils, plants and natural ground covering discourage exotic species.
 - (ii) Control these species through biological and mechanical approaches such as cutting, burning and hand pulling. Increase the number of volunteers doing this work.
 - (iii) Apply herbicide to control infestations of exotic species that threaten plant diversity in our woods. The guidelines and procedures for herbicide use described below must be followed.
2. Herbicide use shall be Roundup or other products containing the same active ingredient: glyphosate. Glyphosate is the least toxic and shortest lasting of currently available herbicides.
3. Using herbicide in the Crestwood woods is a difficult, controversial decision. This policy will be updated as necessary to ensure that we are controlling invasive, exotic species in ways that do not compromise the health of people, animals and native plants.

B. Who may use herbicide on WCHA property?

1. Only residents authorized by the herbicide coordinator (appointed by the chair of the woods committee) may apply herbicide to WCHA land. Residents will be authorized based on familiarity with the procedures and guidelines set down in the herbicide policy, knowledge of application techniques, and the ability to identify targeted exotics as well as desirable native species.
2. Professional applicators hired by the WCHA board may apply herbicide to land owned by the WCHA.

C. How may herbicide be applied?

1. Application of herbicide shall be limited to the following methods:
 - (i) Brushing or spray bottle application to cut stems, stumps, or girdled trunks of woody plants; or
 - (ii) Foliar application with a spray bottle or backpack sprayer directly to targeted plants.
2. Spraying will not occur on windy days to minimize the potential for drift, nor will it be sprayed when rain is in the immediate forecast. Care will be taken to avoid spraying desirable plants.
3. In addition to other provisions of this policy, herbicide manufacturer's instructions for use and disposal will be followed.

D. Which exotic species may be controlled with herbicide?

1. Stumps of exotic species may be treated with herbicide. Tree removal is governed by the WCHA woodlands policy.
2. Exotic herbaceous species that threaten plant diversity in our woods may be sprayed with herbicide. The WCHA board president will be updated annually as to specific exotic herbaceous species being controlled with herbicide.

E. Where is spraying permitted and prohibited?

1. Because of the potential toxicity to children and pregnant women, spraying of herbicide is prohibited in green spaces, within five feet of the main school path, and within five feet of all other paths.
2. Because of potential toxicity to aquatic species such as frogs and fish, spraying of herbicide is prohibited within five feet of the "canal" to the south of Forsythia.
3. If homeowners notify the WCHA board, herbicide will not be sprayed within 25 feet of private property. It is the responsibility of homeowners to control invasive weeds in these areas by hand pulling and bagging. If the woods committee thinks that the invasive weeds in these areas are not being controlled, they will contact a board officer who will alert the homeowner. Homeowners will have up to 14 days to remove the invasive weeds. (If the weeds are about to go to seed, this window may be shorter.) If the weeds are not removed or otherwise controlled in the given timeframe, the woods committee may use herbicide to eradicate the weeds.
4. These rules only apply to foliar spraying. Because stump treatment carries very little exposure risk, these limitations do not apply in this process.

5. Poison ivy is a problem in parts of our woods. Because poison ivy may pose a greater health risk to some in our woods than glyphosate, this herbicide may be used anywhere on WCHA property to control this weed. All rules for notifying neighbors and marking sprayed areas (see below) apply to spraying poison ivy.

F. How will neighbors be notified about spraying?

1. Neighbors who request will be notified by phone the day of spraying within 100 feet of their house.
2. Signs must be posted in the general area of the spraying after spraying is complete. Signs will be placed along the borders of sprayed areas in a way that indicates where spraying has occurred. If a long strip along a path has been sprayed, signs will be placed at the beginning and end of the strip. If the strip is so long that the two signs are not visible from the same spot, additional signs will be placed long the strip.
3. Signs will say that herbicide has been applied to the area and that people should keep off the area. Signs will also indicate a date when they may be removed.
4. Signs will be kept by the woods committee herbicide coordinator.
5. Notification and signs are only required for spraying. They are not required for brush application of herbicide.