

Organic and Synthetic Herbicides

It is important to note that the use of any chemical control, synthetic or organic for weed removal by the city and its contracted maintenance services is never allowed in children's playgrounds, dog parks, picnic areas, creeks and bio-swales or bio-retention areas. Additionally, for shared school-park sites, or sites with pre-schools and similar, any chemical application must follow the Heathy Schools Act and is only allowed on non-student days.

Chemical controls are either organic or synthetic and both are considered herbicides. For the purposes of the study session, organic in horticultural terms, is defined as a method of growing or maintaining ornamental or food plants without the aid or application of synthetic chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, etc.). Synthetic is considered an inorganic herbicide that mimics natural plant hormones which interferes with growth of target plants.

A synthetic chemical weed control method will generally eradicate the part of the weed that is above and below ground and is typically applied to a single weed once per season for eradication. It is typically not harmful to the applicator who is using the appropriate standard personal protective equipment. Also, signs are always posted when a synthetic chemical application is to be used, at least 24 hours prior to the application and remains in place a minimum of 24 hours prior to removal. This allows the product to dissipate in the weed and soil and if applied correctly.

An organic chemical weed control method will generally eradicate the part of the weed that is above ground and typically is applied multiple times per plant, per season for eradication. It is typically not harmful to the applicator who is using the appropriate increased personal protective equipment. Also, signs are always posted when an organic chemical application is to be used, at least 24 hours prior to the application and remains in place a minimum of 24 hours prior to removal. This allows the product to dissipate in the weed and soil and if applied correctly.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates pesticides in the United States. The EPA and the State Agriculture Office receive authority to register pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIRFA). The city relies upon OMRI approved organic products. Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) is an international nonprofit organization that determines which input products are allowed for use in organic production and processing. OMRI Listed® products are allowed for use in certified organic operations under the USDA National Organic Program.