

**Restrictions on “most hazardous” (Tier I) herbicides
for the 2016 San Francisco Reduced Risk Pesticide List
3/15/16**

Background

In light of the re-categorization of glyphosate as Class 2A “probably carcinogenic in humans” by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a consortium of San Francisco Bay Area public agencies developed a general “Policy on the Safe Use of Herbicides” in 2015. The restrictions in this document are based on that policy, and apply only when herbicides categorized as “most hazardous” are used on City-owned properties. In some cases, the allowed uses listed below may be pre-empted by the US EPA label language for the product in question.

The Reduced Risk Pesticide List limitations for individual products may refer to this language, and in some cases the permitted uses for a specific product may be more restrictive. These restrictions apply only to most hazardous herbicides, defined here as herbicide products rated as “Tier I” using San Francisco’s Pesticide Hazard Screening Protocol. All other uses of most hazardous herbicides require an exemption granted by the San Francisco Department of the Environment.

Conditions of use for “most hazardous” herbicides

General requirements

1. All treated areas must be clearly noticed, marked and identifiable for four days after the treatment. Blue indicator dyes must be used for spray treatments.
2. Contractors must be fully briefed and trained in the ~~City’s~~ San Francisco IPM program’s ~~ordinance~~, requirements and policies.
3. Beginning six months from the adoption of these restrictions, any application of ‘most hazardous’ systemic herbicides on City property within the City limits or at San Francisco International Airport must be under the direct supervision of a licensed person. A licensed person is defined for these purposes as a person possessing either an Agricultural Pest Control Advisor license, a Qualified Applicator License, or a Qualified Applicator Certificate issued by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. “Direct supervision” means that the licensed person must be physically present at the site of application.

General prohibitions:

4. No use for purely cosmetic purposes, including turf areas as well as other managed landscapes.
5. No use within 15 feet of designated, actively maintained public paths.
6. No broadcast spraying is permitted, except for targeted treatments at Harding Park golf course in preparation for tournament play.
7. No use on the grounds of schools, preschools, children’s playgrounds, or other areas frequented by children.
8. ~~No use within buffer zones (generally 60 feet) around water bodies designated as red-legged frog habitat.~~ Pesticide use in California red-legged frog habitat will be limited as described in the California Red-legged Frog Stipulated Injunction.
9. No use on blackberry (*Rubus*) plants when fruits are present.

Allowed uses (only as method of last resort):

10. Airport runways falling under FAA regulations.
11. Utility rights of way and watershed lands falling under state or federal vegetation management requirements.
12. Cases judged by City pest management professionals as posing a significant public safety, public health or fire risk, for example, poison oak along popular trails or resprouting trees that

constitute a fire hazard. If such treatments are necessary within 15 feet of a designated public path, a physical barrier must be erected around the treated area.

13. Landscape renovations, provided that weed prevention measures are put in place and the treated area is fenced off for four days after treatment.
14. Invasive species that pose a threat to local, native, rare, threatened or endangered species or ecosystems, and which cannot be controlled by other means, except as prohibited under the General Prohibitions section above.
15. Street median strips in situations where alternative control measures pose safety risks to applicators or the public