

Upton Conservation Commission
Herbicide Use Policy and Guidelines
July 23, 2012

The Commission recognizes that herbicide use is appropriate to control invasive plant species on town of Upton Conservation Areas and other land managed by the Upton Land Stewardship Committee. The use of herbicide shall normally be part of a comprehensive approved land stewardship or forest management plan prepared for a property and the need for herbicide use will be determined on a case by case basis. Use of herbicide within or near wetlands shall be reviewed by the Commission pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act and Upton Wetland Bylaw.

The following general guidelines shall be adhered to:

1. Recommended herbicides and application methods for target species:

Target Species	Application Method	Herbicide
Trees, shrubs, large vines (e.g. Norway maple, multiflora rose, barberry, winged euonymus).	Cut Stump	Glyphosate or Triclopyr
Shrubs, vines (e.g multiflora rose, barberry, winged euonymus poison ivy, oriental bittersweet)	Foliar Spray	Glyphosate or Triclopyr
Upland herbs (e.g garlic mustard)	Pulling (small patches), Foliar Spray	Glyphosate
Wetland herbs (e.g. purple loosestrife, Phragmites)	Foliar spray, Wet Glove	Glyphosate
Oriental knotweed	Foliar spray, with prior cutting to weaken mature stands.	Glyphosate or Triclopyr

Note: Do not use ROUNDUP or Triclopyr near wetlands, ponds, or waterways.

2. Only Pesticide Applicators licensed in the state of Massachusetts may handle and use pesticides on town property.
3. Herbicide applicators must follow state and federal regulations and read and follow the label instructions of each product before using or handling. Applicators shall take care to minimize herbicide exposure to self, coworkers, and volunteers.
4. Herbicides shall be applied only when herbicide use will be effective.
5. Care shall be taken to minimize impacts to non-target vegetation.

6. Weather conditions shall be favorable for herbicide use. Wind speeds for foliar applications must not exceed 5 mph at point of application. Do not apply if there is a good chance of rain within the next 6 hours (rainfall within 6 hours of application may wash off some of the product and reduce effectiveness and spread the herbicide to non-target areas). High temperatures will increase the volatility of the herbicide so as a general guideline, herbicides should not be applied at temperatures above 85° F.
7. Avoid spraying near marked trails. Do not spray when other people or pets are in the vicinity. If herbicide is sprayed on or within 10 ft. of marked trails install public notification signage and maintain signage for 72 hours after the area sprayed. Place signs at all trail junctions adjacent to the treated area. The signs shall contain the name of the herbicide, the reason for application and the date of application.
8. Mixing should be done on-site or off-site in a well-ventilated area to avoid inhaling fumes. Secondary containment shall be provided during onsite mixing and storage of herbicides. Mix over a solvent resistant tray, especially when mixing in the field.
9. The Land Stewardship Committee shall maintain permanent records of herbicide use (location, date, and target plant species) and, from time to time, evaluate the efficacy of herbicide use.
10. Applicators shall wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Inspect all PPE for rips or leaks before each use and discard torn or unsafe PPE. Chemical resistant gloves must be worn when handling any herbicide or any herbicide contaminated equipment. Recommended materials for gloves include: vinyl, PVC coated, nitrile or neoprene. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and rubber over-boots when needed (especially for “wet-glove” and foliar spray). Use of face masks (for particulate matter) during foliar spray treatment is recommended but not required. Wear eye protection when mixing and at any other time when splashing or spraying may occur. Clean all PPE before storing. Have clean wash water available on-site. Wash hands, face, and clothing thoroughly after doing any work with herbicides or herbicide equipment.
11. Keep all equipment clean, properly stored, and in working condition. Test equipment for leaks and proper operation before using. Follow manufacturer’s instructions for proper use of sprayers. Clean all equipment after each use and before storing.
12. Properly secure containers to prevent spillage during transportation and on-site. Off-site storage of herbicide and equipment is the responsibility of the applicator. Original labels should be kept on the containers of herbicide. Place all equipment and bottles containing herbicide in a secondary containment unit (bucket) to aid in cleanup in the event of a spill or leak.
13. Properly dispose of empty herbicide containers and PPE. Herbicide containers should be triple rinsed and have holes punched in them prior to disposal. Old gloves, absorbent pads, paper towels, Tyvek and other PPE used during application shall be sealed in a plastic bag and thrown into the regular garbage.