

Known Pesticide and Fertilizer Regulation Ordinance Issues

1. Are there effective organic treatment options for grubs? Disagreement amongst experts. If there are not effective organic treatments for grubs and use of synthetic products is banned, must be assumed that grubs will be an issue for property owners. Another option is to add an exemption for grubs, but this will mean that weed control products would be only restricted products.
2. Fertilizer-Phosphorus and Nitrogen
 - a. One option is to ban all synthetic fertilizer. Heard from applicators that organic fertilizer contains phosphorus which is undesirable in most applications. In response, draft ordinance was changed to ban synthetic fertilizer containing phosphorus. Also heard from applicators that phosphorous should be allowed for new growth applications such as overseeding for new grass growth.
 - b. Friends of Casco Bay requested ban on the use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and a limit on the application of organic nitrogen fertilizers. They expressed concern that nitrogen runoff threatens marine water quality, marine wildlife and contributes to ocean acidification. South Portland's ordinance includes these restrictions.
3. Technical ordinance language regarding National List.
 - a. Staff and Town attorney drafted revised language to address this issue.
4. Exempting town and school playing fields as well as golf courses.
5. Additional fertilizer application requirements such as requiring a soils test before being allowed to use any fertilizer?