

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black catsuit and boots, is lying on her side in a lush green field filled with white dandelions. In the background, there are bare trees and a large, dark, multi-story building. The sky is filled with large, dramatic, grey and white clouds.

THE FAILURE OF ORGANIC PESTICIDE-FREE MAINTENANCE

FORCE OF NATURE

THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE from
National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG)

In Early 2012 ...

- Ashland parks department staff reported that **ORGANIC PESTICIDES** proved largely **INEFFECTIVE** for controlling weeds.
- Parks staff **GAVE UP ON USING ORGANIC PESTICIDES**.
- Ashland parks commissioners unanimously **RESCINDED PROHIBITION**, and **RE-AUTHORIZED CONVENTIONAL PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS** on baseball and softball infields.
- Weeds took over the dirt areas of the infields in 2011, **CREATING AN UNEVEN AND UNSAFE SURFACE**, presenting a **LIABILITY ISSUE** for the parks department.
- Ashland parks commissioners unanimously **RESCINDED PROHIBITION**, and **RE-AUTHORIZED THE USE OF CONVENTIONAL PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS** on baseball and softball infields.
- Commissioners also unanimously **RESCINDED EARLY SIGN-POSTING**.
- Parks staff tried to burn weeds along concrete and asphalt with **PROPANE TORCHES**, but that was also **NOT EFFECTIVE**.

FAILLURE

Organic

Prohibition RESCINDED

March 2nd, 2012

City of Ashland

[State of Oregon]

Ashland Daily Tidings

Selected and adapted excerpts



TOTAL & DISMAL FAILURE of Organic



Organic Pesticides INEFFECTIVE

Ashland is a city in the State of Oregon, with a population of over 20,000.

It is the home of Southern Oregon University and Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

In 2010, under pressure from Anti-Pesticide Activists, the Ashland parks department decided to forgo (i.e. PROHIBIT) the use of most conventional pest control products.

In early 2012, parks department staff reported that so-called ORGANIC PESTICIDES proved largely INEFFECTIVE for controlling weeds in Ashland parks during 2011.

Organic pesticides contain ingredients such as citrus oil, castor oil, and clove oil, which are FALSELY considered to be safer than conventional products.

BOGUS Organic Maintenance

Anti-Pesticide Prohibition RESCINDED

Weeds took over the dirt areas of the infields in 2011, CREATING AN UNEVEN AND UNSAFE SURFACE.

That presents a LIABILITY ISSUE for the parks department.

Parks staff and volunteers from sports teams RIDICULOUSLY ATTEMPTED TO FIGHT the weeds through methods such as roto-tilling the dirt and raking.

Consequently, Ashland parks commissioners unanimously RESCINDED PROHIBITION, and RE-AUTHORIZED THE USE OF CONVENTIONAL PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS on the baseball and softball infields at North Mountain Park and Hunter Park.

Workers also were hampered by parks rules for EARLY SIGN-POSTING 48 hours before the application of organic pesticides.

TOTAL & DISMAL FAILURE of Organic



Early Sign-Posting RESCINDED

In late February 2012, commissioners unanimously RESCINDED EARLY SIGN-POSTING only because it was inconvenient.

Instead, signs will be posted ONLY **WHEN** THE APPLICATION IS BEING PERFORMED.

In 2011, Ashland parks department had budgeted an EXTRA 10,000 DOLLARS for staff labor and supplies for the application of organic pesticides.

	2011	2010
Cost of products	\$ 1,841	\$ 169
	Organic herbicides	Conventional herbicides

BOGUS Organic Maintenance

Ashland spent 1,841 dollars on organic herbicides, the major category for pesticides used in parks.

In contrast, the parks department spent 169 dollars on conventional herbicides in 2010.

Spending on organic herbicides was higher in 2011 because workers can dilute chemical herbicides with more water before application.

Conventional pest control products can be bought in smaller, concentrated quantities.

Also, parks staff GAVE UP ON USING THE ORGANIC PRODUCTS.

In the Dog Park parking area, parks staff tried to burn weeds along concrete and asphalt with PROPANE TORCHES, but that was NOT EFFECTIVE.

The weeds GREW BACK and had to be chopped down.

The Ashland parks department has fielded some COMPLAINTS ABOUT WEEDS.

Parks staff have proposed careful use of conventional pest control products on most of the non-parkland and for North Mountain Park and Hunter Park baseball and softball infields.

Conventional pest control products would not be used on school grounds.

The only maintenance done on school grounds is mowing.

Conventional pest control products would be allowed to control noxious weeds and weeds that pose a fire hazard, under the parks staff proposal.

TOTAL & DISMAL FAILURE of Organic



**Organic and Pesticide-Free
Maintenance Practices Are
DISMAL FAILURES**

**They Represent a MAJOR THREAT to
the LEGITIMATE Green Space Industry**

**Enviro-Vermin Promoting These
Practices Must Be Eradicated
from the Green Space Industry**

Rat them out !



*Organic and Pesticide-Free
Maintenance is BOGUS*