



October 19, 2020

Dear Chevy Chase Village Resident:

The Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers is seeking opinions and feedback from residents on a proposed new ordinance regarding the use of pesticides in lawn care. We're hoping that this survey will give us enough information about public sentiment that we either take action with assurance of broad resident support, or arrange for more input on the pros and cons.

The proposal is that we opt in to Montgomery County's Pesticide Law (formerly the "Healthy Lawns Act"), which is now in force in the unincorporated parts of the county, including Bethesda. However, municipalities such as the Village can choose whether or not to make the Act effective within our boundaries.

Broadly, the Pesticide Law forbids the use of synthetic herbicides and other pesticides on lawns. This would include the "weed and feed" products commonly used by homeowners, as well as products applied by lawn care companies. You can find a comprehensive description of the law, including the motivation for it and arguments in favor of it at this web address:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/> or by viewing the recording of a briefing hosted by our Environment & Energy Committee, which has been posted to the committee's page on our website at <https://www.chevychasevillagemd.gov/258/Environment-Energy-Committee>.

The law allows for the use of selected organic pesticides and other minimum-risk pesticides on lawns. A list of these, along with tips on how to switch to organic lawn care, is also available on the County website (see FAQs). Enforcement will be the County's responsibility, and they plan enforcement (via a \$50 fine) only in response to complaints.

The Village's Environment & Energy Committee strongly urges the Board to adopt the County law. Many landscape companies are now including organic lawn care services, however, some lawn care companies that specialize in fertilization, weed control, and pest control oppose it. Representatives made a presentation to our neighboring municipality, the Town of Somerset, a recording of which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrjB23cVrQM>. Local representatives for the National Association of Landscape Professionals have also provided a summary of their concerns which has been posted to the Environment & Energy Committee's page on the Village website at <https://www.chevychasevillagemd.gov/258/Environment-Energy-Committee>, titled "Healthy Lawns Act: National Assoc. of Landscape Professionals Statement".

Should we adopt the County's law? Please send us your feedback, either a simple yes/no or specific arguments for or against, by email to ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov, and use "Pesticides Law" in the subject line. We thank you in advance for your feedback.

Sincerely,

Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers

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