

LANDSCAPE ISSUES - MATRIX OF HIERARCHICAL STEPS TO MANAGING PESTS

This matrix is to be used in conjunction with the Eugene School District 4J Landscape Management Guidelines

This is a matrix that identifies a pest problem or issue and defines approved practices for proper control. The goal is the safest, least toxic, and cost-effective methods of control.

The director of 4J Facilities Management or his/her designee must approve any additional strategies before they are used.

Site personnel must always consult Facilities Management prior to taking action against pests on District property.

HORSETAIL CONTROL (A native fern)

The district has spent a considerable amount of time and money landscaping around buildings. Many areas are so weed infested that the investment is being lost. At the district's newly constructed schools, as well as in plantings associated with new parking lots, this problem is more obvious. Although maintenance of the District's flower and shrub beds is performed manually and mechanically (hoe and weed eater) by permanent and seasonal groundskeepers, adequate staffing or volunteer resources do not exist to hand-weed flower and shrub beds often enough to keep the weeds controlled. In past years, approximately 10,000 employee hours have been spent, annually, on weeding beds. - At times, members of the community have come forward to advocate for a program of volunteer weeding of flower and shrub beds. This has proven, over the years, not to be viable. - Geotextile fabric has been tried, also without success. Seeds can, and do, sprout between the fabric and the soil surface. The edges of the fabric are easily exposed, leading to the entire piece being pulled up. - It is also not possible to obtain soil and bark covering which is free of weed seeds and rhizomes. It is common throughout the District to see newly-placed river loam and bark surfacing sprouting weeds that "came in" with the material. - Use of plants native to the Willamette Valley is gaining legitimacy and popularity. There are a number of places in this city where native plants have been used successfully in landscaping projects. This does not, however, preclude the need to keep a given area weeded. Attempts to recreate the original Willamette Valley landscape, such as the courtyard and front planter at South Eugene High School, have not resulted in, attractive or maintenance-free sites.

In the District's flower and shrub beds, infestation by Horsetail fern is an especially prevalent problem. Similar to other undesired vegetation, the rhizomes of this plant are introduced to District property through the placement of new soil and bark coverings. Horsetail fern is far more fast-growing and persistent, and requires a set of control actions which is distinct from the actions associated with other unwanted vegetation in flower and shrub beds. (Level 2 Actions are options depending on the specific location.)

LEVEL 1: Action approved for school supervised volunteer or district staff					
<u>ACTION</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>DONE BY:</u>		<u>IPM RESPONSE</u>	
		<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
SITE INSPECTION	Presence/Complaint	X	X	T	Natural areas
HAND CONTROL	Complaint/work order/site inspection	X	X	P/S	Effective if weeded weekly for two years Routine maintenance
Y	Complaint/work order/site inspection	X	X	P	Area with no valuable plants
LEVEL 2: Action approved for licensed applicator (district staff or contractor)					
<u>ACTION</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
RE-PLANT XERICAPE PLANTS	Complaint/work order/site inspection		X	S	Isolated areas Not requiring irrigation
RE-PLANT GRASS	Complaint/work order/site inspection		X	S	Code permitting, Review City codes
APPLY LIME AT 80 lb PER 1000 SQ FT	Complaint/work order/site inspection		X	S	Raises pH of soil - creates hostile environment
NON-REGISTERED HERBICIDE GREENERGY ® Citric acid & vinegar or equivalent	Complaint/work order/site inspection		X	P	Follow notification guidelines
LEVEL 3: District and Site approved action for licensed applicator (district staff or contractor) required					
<u>ACTION</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
NO CURRENTLY APPROVED TREATMENT					

IPM (Integrated Pest Management) RESPONSE CODE REFERENCE

P - Prevention

E - Exclusion

S - Structural Modification

T - Tolerance

X = Person who may respond to action items listed