

# MEMORANDUM

To: All Meadows-Ferndale HOA (MFHOA) Owners and Residents  
From: MFHOA Board of Directors  
Date: June 25, 2021  
Subject: ECO-FRIENDLY HERBICIDES

The following information has been provided by Aqua-Terr Systems Inc., the environmental specialty company that is certified to monitor and report our stewardship of the native growth protection areas in our neighborhood. It is intended to help homeowners in the maintenance of their lots. It is provided for informational purposes only for the benefit of our owners and residents and is not an endorsement of any product or process.

There are essentially two types of herbicides that are considered eco-friendly, meaning that they will not harm the untargeted flora or fauna in our neighborhood if they are used as directed.

The two types are:

1. **Vinegar-based**. A vinegar-based (acetic acid) herbicide will break down a weed's structure, temporarily eliminating it. However, the weed will only be killed above ground. Its root system will remain and it will regrow. Also, vinegar in low concentrations (5 percent) may not be effective against hardier weeds. Vinegar at higher concentrations (more than 10 percent) can be hazardous to you and to any animals that come in contact with it, with the potential to burn skin and cause blindness. If you use vinegar, mix it with some dish soap to keep it on the leaves instead of beading and falling to the ground.
2. **Glyphosate-based** (e.g., Roundup™). Although it may be counter-intuitive, glyphosate-based weed killers, such as Roundup™, are a good compromise between effectiveness and eco friendliness. While the chemical has been partially linked to concerns about environmental and human health, these concerns relate to use and exposure in large agricultural settings. When applied properly on a warm, dry, and windless day, the weed killer will be absorbed by the weeds and become environmentally inert within hours. Glyphosate will also affect the entire plant, making it unlikely to reemerge. As long as Roundup™ is applied in proper conditions and amounts (as indicated on the container), it will be safe for animals within half an hour. This is a conservative estimate that will give enough time for the product to dry so animals will not pick it up. As long as the product is applied properly it will not be present in a high enough concentration to harm any animals that ingest it. Your critters can play or graze happily in your yard and not be harmed.

Finally, it should be noted that herbicides such as Roundup™ are not used by any of our maintenance crews because they do not discriminate between undesirable "weeds" and those floral species that are being protected, maintained, and promoted. Such discrimination is, unfortunately, a manual process.

*Board of Directors*

**Meadows-Ferndale HOA**