

CITY USE OF HERBICIDES

From time to time, the City receives inquiries about its use of herbicides along the roadway and waterway. What's being used? Is it safe? Does it affect Little Bay?

Most people don't realize that the City employees applying the herbicides must be licensed by the state and have to undergo mandatory continuing education. This means that you can be assured that the mixing and application are being done properly at all times.

Currently, the City is using Aqua Master™, a specially formulated herbicide that is absorbed by plant foliage to kill it, roots and all, by inhibiting the production of specific amino acids, which are essential to plant growth. Because of its composition, the herbicide eradicates weeds in difficult to reach places, eliminates damage to tree trunks that other weed control methods can cause, and does not adversely affect submerged vegetation.

The active ingredient in Aqua Master™ is glyphosate, which binds tightly to soil particles. As a result, it has no residual activity and does not harm off-site vegetation or new plantings. Additionally, it does not seep through the soil, reach groundwater or get transported by run-off water.

The effects of Aqua Master™ on human health and the environment have been extensively evaluated by the Environmental Protection Agency. Research has shown that the active ingredient is not carcinogenic, does not produce birth defects, has low acute toxicity and will not harm fish or aquatic life when used as directed. In addition, numerous environmental studies have shown that, when used properly, Aqua Master™ does not cause adverse effects on the environment.

Aqua Master™ is available for residential use. However, it is much costlier than traditional herbicides and may only be found at specialty retailers or online.