



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 2020

TO: Parks and Recreation Department Staff

FROM: Andrew Field, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Glyphosate Phase-Out

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On September 1, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department began a 150-day phase-out of the use of Roundup and other glyphosate-based materials in all park locations. Open Space and Golf Operations are exempt from participating in the phase-out effort, as well as areas which are maintained by contractual vendors (until contract renewal).

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program**

The Parks and Recreation Department has sought to sustainably manage pest issues that arise in its parks. Since 1999, the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program has focused on both cultural and mechanical means to be used before requests for pesticide application are made. These methods include the following:

- Hand-pulling
- Hoeing
- Weed whipping
- Brush mowing/Fuel reduction

Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates that they are needed.

All pesticide applications are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. While glyphosate products such as Roundup will no longer be a part of the IPM Program, the Department reserves the right to use any material to protect public health and against economic loss. There are many other tools that include both organic and synthetic materials that can be utilized after the above measures have deemed them necessary.

**Organics Pilot Program**

As part of the Department's commitment to the environment, we have initiated a one-year pilot to use organics at three (3) trial sites: the Nobel Athletic Fields and Recreation Center, the Naval Training Center (NTC), and the Azalea Recreation Center. The pilot is being done with Farmers Footprint, a non-profit organization that has experience measuring the effectiveness of alternative materials. Results of the pilot will be used to evaluate the abilities

of alternative materials. These sites were selected because of their varying levels of maintenance needs which will serve as an ideal testing ground for emerging technologies.

### **IPM Protocol**

Effective immediately, work requests for herbicide application must include the following:

1. A Grounds Development Plan (GDP) with areas highlighted for assessment
2. A completed IPM checklist (see attached)

These items must be completed before an assessment can be conducted. The Pest Control Adviser for the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel any application requests that have not followed this IPM protocol.

### **Contracts**

Existing contracts that call for weed removal using glyphosate are to remain in place until their expiration date. This affects primarily the contracted parks in both the Community Parks I and Community Parks II divisions, as well as Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) areas which are maintained by contractual vendors. MAD contracts that are to be renewed may be evaluated for both budgetary and operational impacts on a case-by-case basis (if desired by the respective MAD Committee).

If there is interest in a contract being renewed, its terms must be evaluated for modification to comply with the phase-out effort.

### **Deadline**

The 150-day phase-out of the remaining chemical by all Department divisions (excluding Open Space and Golf Operations) concluded on **February 1, 2020**.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions about the phase-out, use of the methods outlined above, or have existing contracts that need to be modified, please contact Michael Tully at (619) 235-5922 or email him at [MTully@sandiego.gov](mailto:MTully@sandiego.gov).

Sincerely,



Andrew Field  
Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

Attachment: Parks and Recreation Department IPM Checklist, Beneficials Poster

cc: Robert Vacchi, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Neighborhood Services  
Conrad Wear, Policy Manager, Office of the Mayor

# INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) CHECKLIST

✓ A COMPLETED IPM CHECKLIST MUST ACCOMPANY ALL REQUESTS FOR PEST MANAGEMENT UNIT SERVICES.

✓ SERVICE REQUESTS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE A COMPLETED CHECKLIST WILL BE CANCELED.

- Identify pest \_\_\_\_\_
- Inspect for beneficial insects (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR EXAMPLES)
- Check irrigation system and irrigation controller schedule and adjust as needed.
- Check past fertilization schedule.
- Remove weeds in shrub beds, ground cover, sidewalks, and turf. Weed whip pest plants larger than 6 inches tall OR as soon as flowers are showing on pest plants so that the Pest Management Unit may accommodate your work order.
- Determine cause of injury (physical or chemical instead of pest-caused).
- Is the area to be sprayed part of a joint use site?
- Can the pest be removed by mechanical means?
- Are there cultural (mulching, irrigation) practices to prevent re-infestation?
- Is the work beyond the scope of on-site staff?
- If you have tried the above options without results, please complete and submit a pest management service request. This completed checklist must accompany your service request.

Name of site where problem/infestation is occurring				
Specific location of problem/infestation				
Name and job class of employee who inspected the site and completed this checklist	Phone Number	Fax Number	MS	Date
Name and job class of supervisor approving work request	Phone Number	Fax Number	MS	Date
Division	<p><b>Email completed Service Requests to:</b>  <b>Parks and Recreation Department, Work Control Center</b></p> <p><b>Phone: 619/235-1168</b></p>			
District Manager				



# Meet the Beneficials:

## Natural Enemies of Garden Pests

**Predators** hunt, attack, and kill their prey. Encourage these natural enemies by avoiding pesticides that kill them; choosing plants that provide them pollen, nectar, and shelter; and keeping ants out of pest infested plants. Common predators that eat garden pests are pictured below.



**Convergent lady beetles** prefer to eat aphids but sometimes eat whiteflies and other soft-bodied insects. Shown here are the adult (left), larva (center), and cluster of eggs (right).



**Green lacewing adults** eat nectar and pollen. Some species also eat insects.



**Green lacewing larvae** feed on mites, eggs, and small insects, especially aphids.



**Green lacewing eggs** are laid on slender stalks in groups (as shown here) or individually.



**Predaceous ground beetle adults** stalk soil-dwelling insects, such as cutworms and root maggots.



**Predaceous ground beetle larvae** live on soil and in litter, feeding on almost any invertebrate.



**Assassin bugs** attack almost any insect.



**Pirate bugs** attack mites and any tiny insect, especially thrips.



**Damsel bugs** are predaceous on a wide variety of small insects.



**Soldier beetle adults** eat mostly aphids; their larvae are soil-dwelling.



**Spiders**, including this crab spider, attack all types of insects.



**Syrphid fly (flower fly, hover fly) adults** eat pollen and nectar.



**Syrphid fly larvae** eat mostly aphids but also soft-bodied insects.



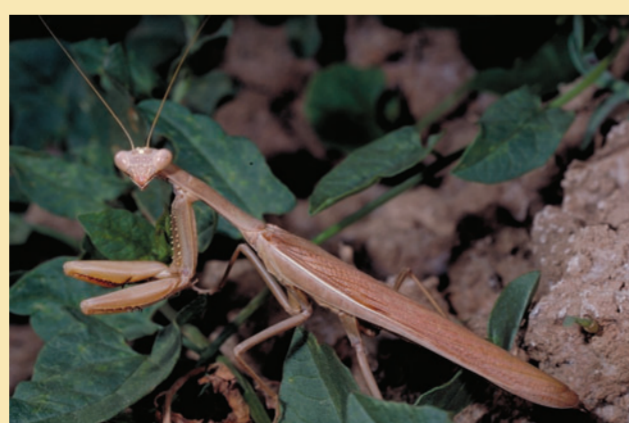
**Sixspotted thrips** attack mostly mites.



**Western predatory mites** attack pest mites.



**Adults of predatory wasps**, such as this paper wasp, prey on caterpillars and other insects.



**Praying mantids** don't control pests, because they eat both beneficials and pests.

**Parasites** live and feed in or on a larger animal (host). Nearly all insect pests have at least one parasite that attacks them. Insects that parasitize other invertebrates (sometimes called parasitoids) are parasitic only in their immature stages and kill their host just as they reach maturity. Most insect parasites are host-specific wasps or flies, and many are so small that often you won't see them. An adult parasite can lay eggs in hundreds of host individuals with a resulting quick reduction in pest numbers.



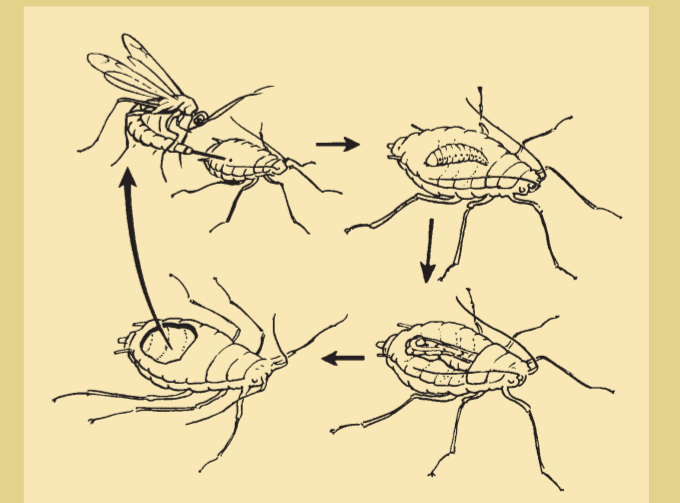
Some parasites attack insect eggs, such as the *Trissolcus* species wasp.



Parasitized aphids die and turn into crusty "mummies" that can be black or beige. The hole in the mummy at left indicates a parasite has emerged. The aphid in the middle is healthy.



The blackish scale insects have wasp larvae developing within.



**Aphid parasite life cycle:** The adult lays an egg in an aphid. The egg hatches into a larva that feeds inside. After killing the aphid, the wasp larva pupates then emerges as a wasp.



Caterpillar parasites include the *Hyposoter exiguae* wasp.

PHOTOS: J. K. CLARK

Visit the Natural Enemies Gallery at [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu) for more information!



University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program