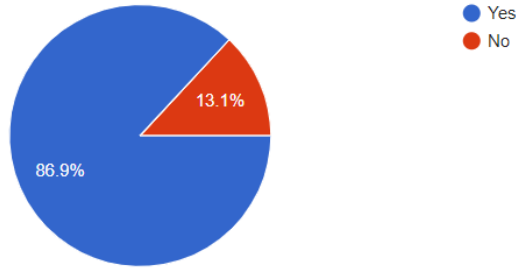


# SOUTH PORTLAND PESTICIDE USE ORDINANCE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES FROM RESIDENTS (131 on 4/12/20)

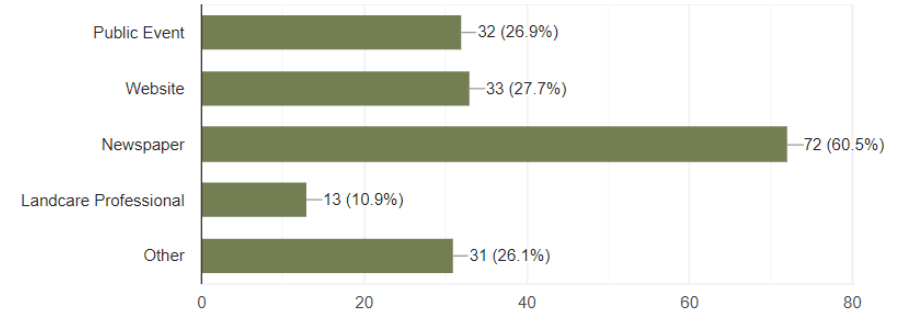
1. Are you aware of the City's Pesticide Use Ordinance and that it is intended to protect public health and the environment?

130 responses



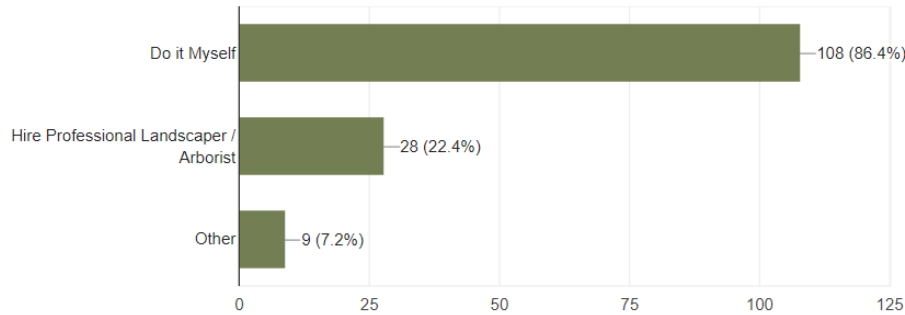
2. If so, how did you find out about it? (check all that apply)

119 responses

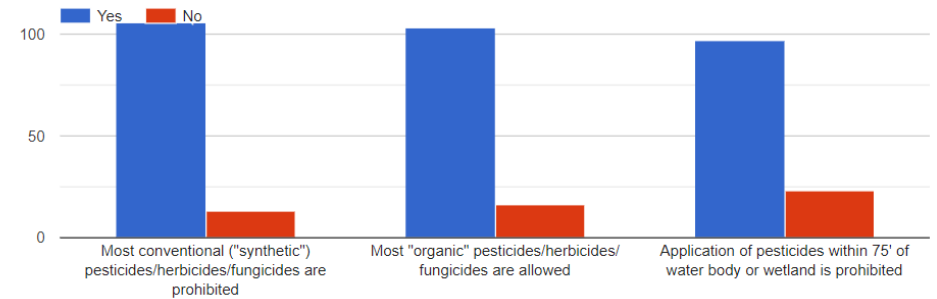


3. How do you take care of your lawns, gardens and shrubs/trees? (check all that apply)

125 responses

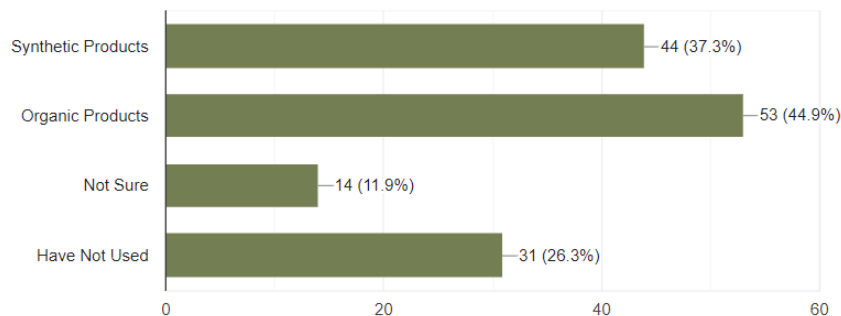


4. Are you aware that the ordinance affects your property in the following ways?



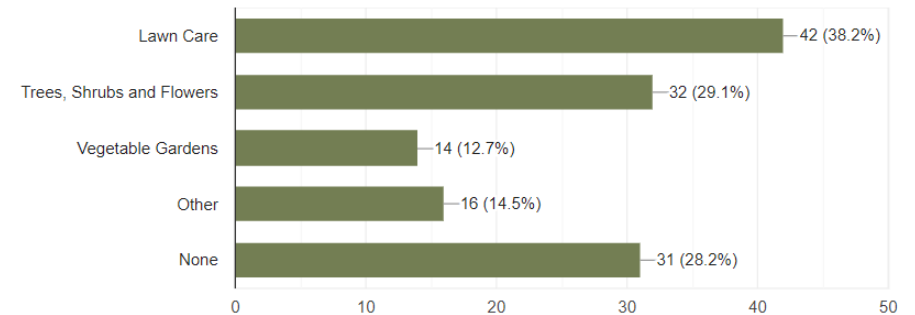
5. If you've previously used pesticides/herbicides/fungicides, what types of products have you used? (check all that apply)

118 responses



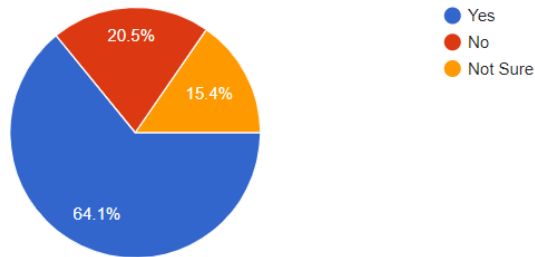
6. Why do you use pesticides/herbicides/fungicides? (check all that apply)

110 responses



7. If you used synthetic pesticides/herbicides/fungicides in the past, have you changed your product use to comply with the ordinance?

78 responses



- Haven't found a suitable replacement for GrubX.
- Don't use chemicals
- Science demonstrates harm
- Changed deliberately, years ago as made aware of pollinator, insect, soil, wildlife, health
- I do not know which products the ordinance applies to. Is it just lawn care products?
- Organic crap doesn't work!
- Never needed to! We love bees - my husband home brews his own beers & we grow our own hops. Always just taking care of our plants, flowers & lawn - we've been lucky!
- no idea what the pest control company is using
- I disagree with the ordnance!

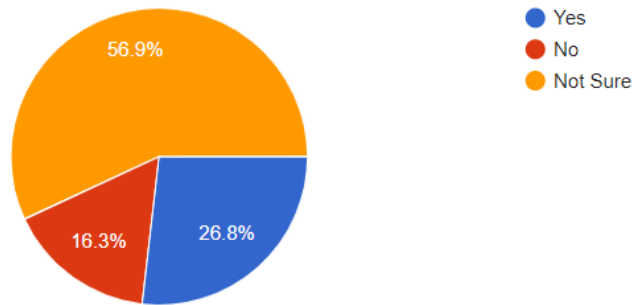
8. If not, please briefly explain your reasons:

28 responses

- I disagree with the ordinance. I keep my materials on my property. The only possible way 'others' might be effected is if they trespass on my property. In most cases there is little or no proof that the materials are hazardous to humans.
- Rarely use anything? Just moved to S. Portland
- This ordinance is ridiculous and will lessen the value of my home considerably.
- I rarely use anything anymore.
- did not use synthetic fertilizers in the past
- I live within 75' of Mill Cove and did not realize i couldn't use organic pesticides, even sparingly. Not sure how to replace their use when needed.
- Was aware of safety issues before ordinance
- I don't use any pesticides; just let the weeds grow
- First time with a yard
- For ticks
- NA
- Don't want pesticides
- Not using anything
- Knotweed is Highly invasive and difficult to control/eliminate through organic methods
- The landscape company has changed their products. For my individual use I have used weed killers in order to tame invasive plants.
- Not only the City ordinance, Roundup just is not safe to use
- While shopping for fertilizer, SP ordinance doesn't come to mind and don't know how to check bag labeling.
- Need a N/A category Not applicable, never used them
- Nothing else works sometimes

9. Do you believe most of your neighbors are complying with the ordinance?

123 responses



- Would permit use of synthetics when organic has not been effective
- Licensed applicators, especially master licensees, should still be allowed to use them.
- My neighbors have lawn flag pesticide warnings
- Make more marketing to create public awareness
- More education
- More info at big box local stores
- Make it a law
- Better education and enforcement
- Stricter, please.

10. Would you change anything about the ordinance and if so what?

61 responses

- No
- Nothing
- By going without, the grubs have appeared and the crows are reeking the lawn! I believe there should have been a slow change over rather than cold turkey.
- I don't like You telling me what or how to do things. If you can prove that an action of mine causes a problem then I should be penalized. Until then keep out of my life.
- Repeal it
- Drop the ordinance against Pesticides/ Herbicides/ Fungicides. There is no organic why to fight weeds and bugs (Grubs). We have in the past had major damage from grubs, so it is just a matter of time before they come back. Also the weeds will take over in time. If applied by a professional properly there is no environmental damage. Until they come up with a practical organic replacement it should not be band.
- More education signs at hardware stores including Home Depot and pamphlet explaining why
- Invasive plants like Japanese knotweed, bittersweet, etc. are a serious threat to local ecology. Strategic application of Roundup is one of the best eradication tools and is applied in such a minute amount that it only harms the targeted species (plus Roundup does not biopersist or bioaccumulate). Homeowners should be granted exemptions if working to eradicate invasives, especially if planting native species in their place.
- I haven't seen much about it since it passed.
- Wider reaching information for wider awareness. Many South Portland residents wouldn't even read this newsletter etc.
- Get the word out
- Make it more clear what products it applies to. Require signage at businesses which sell these products.
- Enforce it
- Absolutely not. We need to stop polluting!

10. Would you change anything about the ordinance and if so what?

61 responses

- No or only to tighten the restrictions
- I would add judicious use of pesticides as recommended by my landscape company.
- For lawn care, I don't think the ban is necessary
- No thanks
- We have worked very hard to install and maintain our lawn over the years and now we have a massive weed bed full of grubs, moles, moss and fungus!
- I think the city should speak with the lawn care companies. My lawn shows significant change for the worse.
- More availability of "how to" guides

- Keep the stores from selling them, ie Walmart and Broadway Gardens, Home Depot and Lowes
- Make it stricter!
- More publicity so we all know
- Make it more strict and enforce it
- Help people know which products are OK to buy (at Home Depot for example)
- Not sure
- nothing
- Not sure
- I would let individual homeowners use what they like on their lawns. The city and public lands can use organics and natural remedies.

- Before you enact an ordinance you should have answers and solutions! I have an organic lawn company servicing my lawn and he admits it it a guess to what MIGHT work. I think you folks are CLUELESS! Nice spending \$600 for a terrible looking lawn, I am sure the taxes will be reflected in my house with a former nice lawn being a cluster of weeds! Well done!
- Make it easier to treat for pests that commonly do significant damage, like grubs, especially where there is no efficient organic method of treatment.
- Provide lawn care workshops. Maybe you already do? It's ok not to have a perfect lawn
- Allow proper use of these products
- You need to help us with invasives like Black Swallow Wort, Japanese knotweed, bittersweet, honeysuckle. Falmouth comes to peoples' properties and helps eliminate invasive plants. We are being overrun by swallow wort which is killing everything near it. Cooperative Extension says only Round-up will kill it.
- Exemption for athletic fields, similar to Portland

- Enforcement
- No changes
- Ban certain items from being sold.
- Make it stronger
- To allow some exemptions. I have apple trees that are dying from fungus and natural isn't working. It's too restrictive
- REVERSE IT. Educate people then let them make a decision. Don't mandate. Or, you can come to my house and dig the weeds from my lawn. I am horribly allergic to bees. I do not want anything that flowers in my lawn as it could kill me if I step on a bee. I have flowers, I don't spray them because the bees are welcome there. I do not walk in the flower beds but I do have to walk on the lawn. I use mostly natural products. I resent you mandating how I garden.
- More awareness
- Needs more oversight and penalties

11. Please provide any suggestions for how we can better educate the public about the importance of the ordinance:

68 responses

Maybe there should be more information about how to have a good lawn organically. A good landscape makes neighborhoods more attractive and better for sales. What products work?

Maybe more articles? I'd love to see more of a push (and education) to encourage people to plant more natives, move away from pristine green laws, and leaving fall leaves to increase pollinator overwintering habitat

A general meeting with a horticulturist who can explain effective alternatives to pesticides. If you have already done this, I never saw a notice about it.

Just keep educating.

Periodic mailing distribution including actual evidence would be helpful.

Repetition, repetition, repetition. Demonstration, education, information, consequences of not having ordinance

It is not important. Just another ban initiated by the hippies of Ferry Village.

Just more of it. The more we hear of it the better.

More signage and education - maybe at garden centers?

Newspaper articles in the free weekly papers

Starts at elementary level and the educate at every day

Information booths

regular blurbs of various ways to remove unwanted plants

City could mail information. City could give free organic products to start people off.

Amend ordinance to require signage and educational materials wherever pesticides are sold in the city with no exceptions based on the size of the store

Provide a website to send questions.

Stay out of our lives. You are out of control. Bring back the good old South Portland I grow up in.

See #10

Facebook on SP Rec & Public Works

continued efforts at city events, website, newsletter, etc. / A time frame question ie: How often, how long, etc. might be helpful for survey stats.

No suggestions.....

I just moved here so I'm not a good gauge :-)

Healthy lawn signs? For example "Zero Pesticide Used Here" or "Save Our Planet - Go Organic!"

School events (educate younger)

I saw many signs about bees in neighbors yards when I moved here last August. Is this related to your ordinance? If they were, it was unclear to me. Perhaps a general mailing in the early spring and later in the summer to remind citizens to not use poisonous chemicals on their lawns and property.

Flyers to the home

Thank you!

Lawn and garden centers

Workshops on organic alternatives, tabling at Broadway Gardens, tours of native plant gardens that use organic methods.

Keep it up and thank you!

Educational talk at library

Mailing? Articles in print & social media???

Articles in paper / other news sources

11. Please provide any suggestions for how we can better educate the public about the importance of the ordinance:

68 responses

Require condo / commercial users to restrict

Have lawn and garden and big box stores post alerts for the ordinance next to the offending products within the stores.

More signage in stores, etc.

Have more free workshops

Place signage at businesses that sell these products. List specific products that are banned on your website.

Provide more info on what works on lawns

Push the promotions on social media. I think the stands at public events are important!

Newsletter articles, notices in public places (Transfer Station, City Hall, etc.), hardware stores. Broadway, Gardens, Lowe's, Home Depot, etc.

I want to thank you for making my once gorgeous lawn a collection of crabgrass and weeds. I am spending over \$600 for an organic lawn company's service. Maybe in a few years organic "weed control" will work, but products aren't here yet. We tried organic 10 years ago for two years had to go back to pesticides UNTIL this ordinance came into effect, now best collection of crabgrass we ever had.

Article in paper

Possibly partner with schools for community service programs. Teach the kids about lawn and garden care and let them help in community to provide the care

Stop generalizing. List specific product names that are banned. Stop calling it "pesticide ordinance" when herbicides, fungicides are included, too.

I don't think they fail to comply because they don't know. I think they fail to comply because there is no penalty for non-compliance and because many shop at Wal-Mart and Home Depot, etc. in Scarborough where the prohibited products are widely available.

Mailed leaflets, Signs at schools (children can pass info to family) city entrances, require licences for landscape business use?

More outreach - library speaker?

Can you do anything with CMP or water (resources?) mailings to educate?

YouTube channel with how to videos

Continuous education is important - attending events like this is great

Again, for residential lawn care, I feel it is not necessary. Come to Country Gardens and see how terrible the lawns look. But be careful that you do not trip on all the broken sidewalks which the city ignores. I requested repairs TWENTY YEARS ago. Still waiting

Keep up with what you are doing! Thanks

I haven't seen any publications delivered by mail in the last year, that I can recall. I think that would help. The resources sent by EcoMaine in early 2019 about trash vs recycling were extremely useful to me. Simple messages with visuals that encourage people to visit a website "to learn more" might be effective.

Get factual scientific information on the true impact of the ordinance (if there is any) and study logistics of where the ordinance would really be helpful, for instance fertilizers use on shore lines and water shed areas.

Would the Sentry help with a "spring into summer" awareness program one would think it would be donated for our city knowledge!

Full page ad in the Sentry or send a letter to all residents

I'm not sure that purchase availability and use allowances match up - is it possible to educate at point of sale? Yes, this sounds tricky to me, too.

Workshops to highlight organic alternatives and how to maintain healthy landscape for wildlife and aesthetics

Easy to understand guide on what's OK to use and what's not.

This is great, thank you

Provide educational materials on alternative methods and products to make it easier to follow the ordinance.

Also, Change zoning to allow for goats on residential property!

Continue using all social media platforms, school flyers, have a presence at all all gatherings (Art In The Park, etc.)

Ensure lawn service vendors only use appropriate products.

Have demo yards/workshops for folks to see how getting rid of even some lawn, a biological desert, and replacing with perennials, shrubs and trees creates beneficial habitat.

More publicity on social media

Direct mailing to every household



## NOTES

Questions were developed by the Pest Management Advisory Committee in June 2019 and initially distributed on a limited basis at public events, such as WillardFest and Art in the Park (each event produced ~25 completed questionnaires). In September, PMAC members then distributed questionnaires along with a PSA (below left) to several municipal buildings including City Hall, public libraries and the Community Center. In mid-November 2019, a PSA (below right) was placed in the City's e-newsletter and has been running in every edition until 2/14/20. It was also placed on the Sustainability Office's Facebook page in mid-November. 134 questionnaires had been submitted with the response period was closed on 4/12/20. The PMAC will use the responses to guide the ongoing implementation of the ordinance. FMI please contact Fred Dillon ([fdillon@southportland.org](mailto:fdillon@southportland.org) / 207-347-4138).



### Questionnaire on Pesticide Ordinance for Private Properties

The City of South Portland's Pesticides Use Ordinance went into effect for all private properties in May of 2018. To help us learn more about how the implementation of the ordinance is going, please take a few moments to complete this brief questionnaire. The responses will be compiled into a summary report to help inform our ongoing efforts to implement the ordinance. To complete an online questionnaire please visit the link below or scan the QR code:

[bit.ly/SoPo\\_Pesticide\\_Questionnaire](https://bit.ly/SoPo_Pesticide_Questionnaire)



For more information, please visit the Grow Healthy South Portland website:

[bit.ly/Grow\\_Healthy\\_SoPo](https://bit.ly/Grow_Healthy_SoPo)



*Please return completed paper questionnaire to:  
Sustainability Office, 25 Cottage Rd, 04106*



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