



STATEMENT on USES OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES and HERBICIDES Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP)

As a result of inquiries from students in the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP), the NLCP Steering Committee is issuing the following statement.

The NLCP, a Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) program, does NOT endorse in any way the use of chemical pesticides or herbicides in private or public landscapes except under limited circumstances where other means are not effective, and the benefits significantly outweigh the risks. Each site and situation is unique, and consideration should be given to all environmental and safety factors before determining a solution.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

For guidance on Integrated Pest Management, we recommend following the guidelines established by the Texas A&M Agriculture and Life Sciences department.

“The goal of IPM is **not** to eradicate pests, but to eliminate pest problems by strengthening and stabilizing the landscape so that conditions are more favorable for plants than for pests. This balance is achieved by employing a combination of practices to prevent or avoid pest problems rather than treating them once they occur. Emphasis is given to cultural (non-chemical tactics) and biological (biological control using predators, parasites, and pathogens) methods of control. Properly applied chemical control methods are used only when justified, and then by choosing the least toxic methods.”

Source: Texas IPM Program by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

For more detailed information on IPM, refer to:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/home-landscape/managing-plant-problems/bugs-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/>

Control of Invasive Botanical Species

In cases where the eradication of invasive or unwanted botanical species is the desired outcome, we strongly encourage first using one of the following methods as the initial means of eradication before employing chemical herbicides.

1. Prevention methods – e.g. promoting competition of existing beneficial native vegetation.
2. Mechanical or physical means – e.g. pulling, digging or cutting the undesirable species.
3. Biological controls – e.g. animal grazing or browsing.
4. Solarization or tarping – e.g. wetting and covering the affected area with plastic during hot periods.
5. Sheet mulching – e.g. layering cardboard over undesirable species.
6. Prescribed burns – e.g. selectively burning problem areas.
7. Organic herbicides – e.g. using horticultural vinegar.

For more detailed information on comprehensive management of invasive species, refer to:

Weed Control Methods Handbook: Tools and Techniques for Use in Natural Areas – developed by the Global Invasives Species Team (GIST) of The Nature Conservancy.

<https://www.invasive.org/gist/handbook.html>

For more detailed information on the safe and effective use of chemical herbicides, refer to:

Herbicide Use in Natural Areas: A Guide for Volunteer Land Stewards - co-developed by The Nature Conservancy and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5386111.pdf