

Landscape Pesticide Application Advance Notice Registry

Frequently Asked Questions

○ **What is the Landscape Pesticide Application Advance Notification Registry?**

The registry is a way for renters and homeowners to be told in advance of landscape pesticide applications made to neighboring properties. The pesticides are applied by professional lawn or landscape companies that are hired by your neighbors. As a registry participant, you must provide the addresses for which you want advance notice. Our department lists those addresses in the landscape registry.

The registry is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Check our website at <http://datcp.wi.gov/> and search on 'landscape registry.'

○ **Is the Landscape Pesticide Registry new?**

The first registry was issued in 1993 and 500 people participated. Since then, the number of people requesting advance notice has increased. In 2011, 950 homeowners and renters joined the registry, listing nearly 14,000 addresses.

○ **Why did the program change to an on-line sign-up?**

Our registry members have been requesting on-line registration for a number of years. The on-line registration will save more than \$35,000 annually in mailing, printing and staff costs, limit data entry errors and be more convenient for users.

○ **What is a landscape pesticide application?**

It is a pesticide application made to trees, shrubs, lawns or mulched areas. Pesticides control pests such as weeds, insects and plant diseases. Landscape pesticide applications do not include pesticides applied to utility or roadside right-of-way

areas, including median strips or structural pest control applications made around building foundations or agricultural applications.

○ **Why would I want to be notified?**

You may notification so you can minimize your chance of having contact with the applied pesticides. This can include keeping your windows closed, keeping pets or children away from the treated areas or knowing when not hang laundry outdoors.

○ **Do I have to know if a neighbor plans to hire a landscape service?**

No, just list any properties on your block of residence or immediately adjoining blocks for which you want advance notice of landscape pesticide applications. If your neighbor hires a professional service, the company must notify you before they use pesticides at any of the addresses you've listed.

○ **How and when will I be notified?**

The commercial lawncare or landscape company (not the state agriculture department) must notify you at least 12 hours before applying the pesticides to the properties you have identified. The company can notify you by telephone, deliver a notice to your address or mail you a notice. Mailed notices must be postmarked at least two business days prior to the pesticide application.



○ What information will the advance notice provide?

The notice will give the name and telephone number of the lawncare firm, the address to be treated, possible pesticides to be used and the scheduled application date.

○ Why is the registry deadline Feb. 1?

Following the Feb. 1 deadline, staff review and edit any errors within the registry. By March 1, companies can begin comparing the registry list to their customer list. The registry takes effect on March 15. This is so new participants will be notified of early spring pesticide applications as landscape pesticides may be applied as early as mid-March.

○ Why can't I add addresses to the registry throughout the year?

It is best to have one registry to which businesses compare their customer lists. Constant updates could cause confusion and may result in registry participants not being notified.

○ Once my request is listed in the registry, will it be listed forever?

To keep the registry current and accurate, you will renew your listing each year. We will send you an email in late fall or early winter and ask you to review your name, address, telephone number and addresses from the past year. You can make corrections or changes but those must be submitted by Feb. 1 the following year.

○ When will I begin to receive advance notification?

You can receive notice as early as March 15. Your registry request is valid until March 14 of the following year.

○ Is my registry information confidential?

This information is not considered confidential and may be subject to open records requests. This means that anyone can review the registry on our website or download a copy. The department is required to provide the registry to commercial

application businesses and to any commercial pesticide applicator.

○ What do the commercial companies do with the registry?

The commercial companies compare the addresses on the registry with their customer list before they make a pesticide application. If their customer's address is on the registry, the company notifies the person(s) listing that particular address before they apply landscape pesticides.

○ I missed the registry deadline. How can I get notification for this year?

You can contact the lawn and landscape companies that operate in your area (check your telephone directory or the Internet) and ask if they will notify you voluntarily. We cannot, however, take action against a company that will not do this for you.

○ What if my landlord or property manager applies pesticides to the lawns, trees and shrubs?

If the landlord or property management company applies pesticides themselves (they don't contract with a professional company), they are not required to give you advance notice. In these instances, we suggest you speak with your landlord or property manager and ask if they will notify you voluntarily.

○ How can I tell if a lawn has been recently sprayed?

Lawn or landscape companies must post warning signs on the lawn or by trees and shrubs that have been treated with pesticides.

○ What do the warning signs look like?

The sign is at least four inches by five inches with red lettering on a white background.

The sign will tell you which business made the application, its telephone number, and the date when the sign can be removed.

Here is an example of the sign.



○ **What if I see the signs but did not receive a notice?**

If you see these signs at an address you put on the registry but you did not receive advance notice, call the department's Lawncare Hotline at 608-224-5296 as soon as possible. We'll need to know the following information:

- Your name and address.
- The address where the suspected application was made.
- The date of the suspected application.
- The name of the company (printed on the warning sign.)

We will contact the lawncare or landscape firm to find out why you were not notified. Failure to notify people on the registry is a violation of our rules and the company can be penalized.

○ **What if I see a company in my neighbor's yard but I don't see signs and I don't get an advance notice?**

Your neighbor most likely had fertilizer applied to their lawn. Lawncare and landscape companies are not required to give advance notice or post signs for fertilizer-only applications. However, if the firm applied a fertilizer-pesticide blend (for example a

fertilizer with crabgrass control), then they must post signs and give advance notice if you listed your neighbor's address on the registry. We suggest asking your neighbor what type of work was done.

○ **I don't think my neighbors should use lawn pesticides. Can I stop an application?**

Although you have listed your neighbor's address on the registry, you cannot stop a landscape pesticide application on their property. If you have concerns about pesticide use, we suggest you share your concerns with your neighbor.

○ **Where can I get more information?**

If you would like more information on the landscape registry, contact the Landscape Registry Coordinator, DATCP, PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911, 608-224-4616. Please leave a message after hours and weekends or check our website at: <http://datcp.wi.gov/>

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