

# LUTHER COLLEGE

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Department: Facilities Services  
Subject: Herbicide Application Process  
Date Issued: November 18, 2005  
Date Revised: November 17, 2009; October 1, 2011, October, 2012  
Approved By:

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### **I. Policy**

This policy outlines the prudent use of herbicides to provide well-maintained, visually attractive grounds for Luther students, employees and visitors and to control undesirable weeds on athletic fields. The College weed control methods use a holistic approach to turf management. The Luther College Policy for Herbicide Application is approved by the Cabinet and is available by contacting the Manager of Environmental Services at ext. 387-1668.

### **II. Scope**

This procedure applies to Luther-owned properties.

### **III. Terms and Definitions**

- Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) – A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is a document that contains information on the potential health effects of exposure to chemicals, or other potentially dangerous substances, and on safe working procedures users should adhere to when handling chemical products.
- Aeration – The introduction of air from the atmosphere into soil. This is accomplished by utilizing different pieces of equipment on the turf.
- Salt resistant grass – A special blend of grass seed that is resistant to winterkill and salt/ice melt application.
- Fertilization – Typically, the use of three major fertilizer elements - nitrogen, phosphorus (phosphate), and potassium (potash) to maintain good quality turf grass.
- Overseeding – The process of planting grass seed directly into existing turf, without tearing up the turf or the soil.

### **IV. Procedures and Guidelines**

- A. Facilities Services will seasonally assess the need for herbicide application, schedule the application and keep appropriate records of each application. These applications may occur up to three times per year, weather permitting. Facilities Services will annually review with the Land Use Committee the amount and rationale for herbicide applied.
- B. Inquiries for the application of herbicide should be addressed to the Manager of Environmental Services, ext. 387-1668, who is responsible for all herbicide application.
- C. The following guidelines shall be used in the herbicide application:
  - The Cabinet shall approve the Luther College Policy for Herbicide Application.

- Application of herbicides shall be applied at times when the campus population is low. The main campus turf grass areas will be sprayed the week following Commencement, early August, and/or fall break, weather permitting. If at all possible, herbicide applications shall be at times before and after normal work hours and on weekends.
  - Only persons trained and having proper certification by the State of Iowa may apply restricted use herbicides. For safety reasons, Luther grounds staff will annually obtain certification to apply herbicides whether restricted or general use.
  - Application will be done according to the product label and in compliance with the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), which will be maintained for all products used.
  - In the application of spray herbicides, wind speeds will be checked and application of spray herbicide to be applied per product label. In no case will product be applied when the wind speed exceeds 10 mph.
  - Signage shall be in accordance with chemical requirements set by the herbicide label and in accordance with the State of Iowa.
    - o Notification will be in the Tuesday the week before the intent to spray.
    - o Notification will be in the Bulletin preceding the time period identified to spray.
    - o Notification on Residence Hall entrance doors at least one day prior to the spray period.
    - o Notification to Security and Information Desk at least one day prior to the spray period
  - The use of the herbicide 2-4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) shall not be used.
  - Periodic spot spraying may be applied throughout the year in flowerbeds, athletic field non-turf areas, landscaped areas using rock or mulch, sidewalk and parking lot cracks, etc.
  - Periodic spot spraying may be applied in extended land areas to control the growth of invasive plant species.
  - The Manager of Environmental Services will establish the boundaries where herbicides will be used. No spray buffer areas include the dike areas, edible landscape garden areas, swimming pool and the Sustainability House.
  - A representative of Facilities Services will be present during the herbicide application process.
  - When community and college events are happening at the same time of intended herbicide application, adjustments will be made in the general area of the event.
- D. Using a holistic approach to turf management, the procedures for the year are based on the premise to improve the overall quality and quantity of turf grass. This is accomplished by fertilization, aeration, overseeding, use of salt resistant grass seed adjacent to sidewalk edges, and irrigation. By improving the turf grass quality, weed growth will be inhibited and herbicide use can be decreased.
- E. Luther College will investigate and test alternative methods and products for weed control. In conjunction with the Land Use Committee, alternative methods will be identified for investigation. Records of products used, areas treated, dates, times, and notes on effectiveness will be located at Facilities Services.
- F. Facilities Services will maintain open communication with those testing alternative methods. This may include other lawn management practices such as replacing turf grass with native plantings.

## **V. Confidentiality and Record**

The grounds crew supervisor will maintain appropriate records indicating product used, area treated, date, time, wind speed, weather conditions, safety equipment used, etc. The records will be located at Facilities Services.