

Vegetation Management

How does the City decide where to spray herbicide?

City of Auburn's pest management strategy includes prioritizing non-chemical methods in City operations. Chemicals are only used when necessary, in addition to other weed control strategies. The ultimate goal in any treatment is to replace unwanted vegetation with appropriate native plants.

When used in combination with other control measures, herbicides are an effective tool for initial control of a problem. Areas may then be converted to low-maintenance, desirable native plant communities where herbicide use is no longer needed.

Do people who apply herbicides on public land have any certifications?

Auburn City staff are certified through the Washington State Department of Agriculture and required to complete continuing education training through organizations such as the King County Noxious Weed Program and the Washington State Cooperative Extension Integrated Pest Management Program.

Does the City spray blackberries?

The City does not apply herbicides or pesticides to blackberries that are allowed to flower or fruit. If herbicide use is necessary, the blackberry canes are cut to the ground and only the freshly cut stem is treated with herbicide.

Are there any parks that have specific limitations on herbicide use?

When herbicides are applied in parks, there will be posted signs stating "This Landscape Has Been Treated by the City of Auburn Parks Department", the date, what herbicides are being applied, and contact information.

We give at least 24 hour notice before spraying at Auburndale Park.

Our Ongoing Commitment

The City of Auburn will continue to review new products, technologies, and cultural practices as they become available in order to continue the effort to reduce herbicide use, while providing well maintained parks and facilities.

Which Herbicides does the city use?

- Milestone: Broadleaf and Woody
- Finale: Broadleaf and Grass
- Base Camp: Broadleaf
- Crossbow: Woody, Blackberries and Scotch Broom
- Ranger Pro: Grasses
- Polaris: Knotweed
- Snapshot: Pre-Emergent