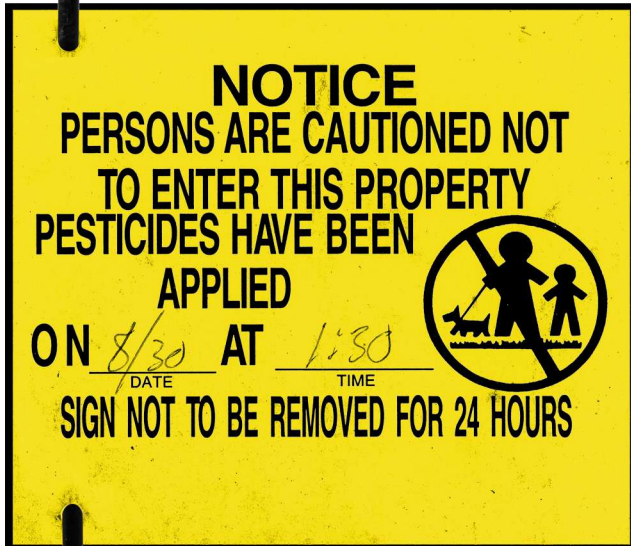


SPRING ALERT

Does your child know what this sign means?



Now that the warm weather is here, it's natural for kids to be outdoors, playing on lawns. While this is a healthy activity for children, parents need to be aware that many lawns are treated with chemical pesticides. The unique behavioral patterns of children as well as their developing physiology make them more vulnerable to these chemicals than adults, and studies have shown that even small exposures to pesticides at critical periods of development may cause acute or long term health problems, including asthma, neurological impairment and cancer. Pesticides can be inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or inadvertently ingested when children put unwashed hands in their mouths. Parents should be aware that lawn pesticides can remain on the grass long after the warning signs have been removed.

"As a pediatrician I urge all parents to reduce pesticide use as much as possible, especially lawn services. Children's health is more important than a few weeds."

Philip J. Landrigan, M.D.
Director of the Center for Children's Health and the Environment, Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

"Pesticides can be dangerous, especially to our children. Help us protect the health of our youth, as well as our environment, by supporting this spring alert initiative."

Steve Levy
Suffolk County Executive

To limit your family's exposure, stop using lawn care pesticides on your lawn and keep children away from treated areas in parks and schools or on neighbor's lawns. (Be aware that even commonly used "weed and feed" products can contain harmful pesticides.) If a neighbor is spraying their yard, close your windows and bring moveable items inside, especially children's toys and animal food dishes.

This year, Suffolk County residents have many more natural lawn care solutions available to them thanks to the Grassroots Healthy Lawn Program, a joint initiative of Suffolk County and Grassroots Environmental Education.

Please visit www.ghlp.org or call (516) 883-0887 for a list of landscapers offering natural lawn care or retailers carrying natural lawn care products.

