



NOFA/Massachusetts
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Growing Organically Since 1982

April 9, 2019

Dear Shrewsbury Town Meeting Members:

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA/Mass) envisions a commonwealth of people working together to create healthy landscapes that feed our communities and restore our environment. The use of toxic and persistent chemicals on landscapes, be they schools, playgrounds, municipal properties, community gardens or farms, is not compatible with that vision. We are excited to now be joining forces with other organizations across the commonwealth at this critical moment of heightened awareness of the dangers presented by our society's over-reliance and abuse of synthetic biocides like glyphosate.

Communities across the country are deciding to take action against toxic pesticides and the dangers they pose to humans and wildlife. By using tools like local ordinances and resolutions, cities and towns can create policies to promote organic landcare practices.

The process of enacting city or town policies usually starts with a handful of passionate citizen activists who want to create a safer, healthier community. Some are motivated to protect pollinators from systemic insecticides, others become active when they learn that their children are exposed to pesticides on school and town property.

NOFA/Mass endorses Article 20 which proposes an "organic first" approach - the ideal, gold standard strategy for reducing the use of toxic pesticides. The proposed by-law would reduce the use of synthetic pesticides and herbicides (more generally termed "biocides" - "destructive of life") and move Shrewsbury forward in its pesticide reduction goals.

Please consider voting in favor of Article 20 for a healthier community and ecosystem.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marty Dagoberto'.

Marty Dagoberto
Policy Director and Outreach Coordinator
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Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.

Through education and advocacy NOFA/Mass promotes organic agriculture to expand the production and availability of nutritious food from living soil for the health of individuals, communities and the planet.