

**A Citizen's Petition: Regarding an Organic Land Management Policy for
Land Owned or Managed by the Town of Needham
Warrant Article #22**

To see if the **Town of Needham** will transition from an **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy** which includes the use of pesticides* as defined by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) towards an **Organic Land Management Policy** on town owned or managed land.

The Town of Needham has already implemented procedures to reduce the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers on town property through an **Integrated Pest Management** program. We ask that the town take the next step and commit to develop and implement an **Organic Land Management Policy** on town owned and managed land, excluding the golf course.

The use of FIFRA exempted minimal risk pesticides** would be allowed on land owned or managed by the Town of Needham.

There would be an exemption for the prevention of mosquito borne illnesses. Exemptions would also be permitted in the case of a health emergency such as an outbreak of stinging or biting insects or where user safety is jeopardized on town managed playing fields, schools and facilities grounds or conservation land.

In order to implement a transition to an Organic Land Management Policy, a committee of interested citizens, elected representatives and /or members of appropriate departments could be formed to assist in developing an Organic Land Management Policy and practice for the Town of Needham.

*Pesticide is defined as any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest; any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant; and any nitrogen stabilizer. It includes pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and fungicides (FIFRA section 2(u) (PDF) (109 pp, 288k).

** FIFRA exemption of minimal risk pesticides includes products that contain certain low-risk ingredients, such as garlic and mint oil, have been exempted from Federal registration requirements, although State regulatory requirements may still apply.

ORGANIC standards in land care have been created by The Northeast Organic Farmer's Association Organic Land Care (NOFA OLC), Organic Material Review of Eugene, Oregon (OMRI) and The National Organic Program (NOP)