

**From:** Charles Schuster [mailto:cfs@umd.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2013 9:35 AM  
**To:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Subject:** FW: Montgomery County Council Committee discussion on pesticide use on September 9/Update

See time change

Chuck Schuster  
Extension Educator, Commercial Horticulture  
University of Maryland Extension  
Central Maryland Cluster  
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**From:** Mark I. Schlossberg [mailto:MARK@PROLAWNPLUS.COM]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2013 5:28 PM  
**To:** Eric Wenger; Jay Nalls; Dean Graves; Brian Herrington; Chris Wible; Chris Forth; Brian Feldman; Paul Wolfe; Bill Patton; Bill Patton; Michael Vanek; Harry Kenney; Lester Dubs; Charles Schuster; Karen Reardon; Mark Leahy  
**Subject:** Fwd: Montgomery County Council Committee discussion on pesticide use on September 9/Update

FYI.

Mark I. Schlossberg  
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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Gene Harrington <[gharrington@pestworld.org](mailto:gharrington@pestworld.org)>  
**Date:** August 28, 2013, 5:21:33 PM EDT  
**To:** "'[mnixon@americanpest.net](mailto:mnixon@americanpest.net)'" <[mnixon@americanpest.net](mailto:mnixon@americanpest.net)>, "'[gonzalezj@capitolpest.com](mailto:gonzalezj@capitolpest.com)'" <[gonzalezj@capitolpest.com](mailto:gonzalezj@capitolpest.com)>,

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**Cc:** Bob Rosenberg <[rosenberg@pestworld.org](mailto:rosenberg@pestworld.org)>, Missy Henriksen  
<[mhenriksen@pestworld.org](mailto:mhenriksen@pestworld.org)>

**Subject:** Montgomery County Council Committee discussion on pesticide use on  
September 9/Update

Montgomery County Council staff just alerted me that the September 9 meeting on pesticides has been moved up to 10:00 am. The meeting is presently scheduled for the 7th Floor Hearing Room in the building at 100 Maryland Avenue building in Rockville, although it is possible it might be moved to the 3rd Floor Hearing Room (a larger space) if needed. There is a visitor parking garage adjacent to the building (use the Route 28/Monroe Street corner entrance). There is also a surface parking lot for jurors across from the garage (access from Monroe Street) which, depending on how busy Court is, may have some free spaces.

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**From:** Gene Harrington

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2013 3:42 PM

**To:** '[mnixon@americanpest.net](mailto:mnixon@americanpest.net)'; '[gonzalezj@capitolpest.com](mailto:gonzalezj@capitolpest.com)'; '[Brian@capitolpest.com](mailto:Brian@capitolpest.com)'; '[brucemorgan@comcast.net](mailto:brucemorgan@comcast.net)'; '[ngoldenberg@terminix.com](mailto:ngoldenberg@terminix.com)'; '[cgorecki@rollins.com](mailto:cgorecki@rollins.com)'; '[mark@prolawnplus.com](mailto:mark@prolawnplus.com)'; '[wwhite@americanpest.net](mailto:wwhite@americanpest.net)'; Jim Fredericks; 'Walters, Tom'; '[rkramer@ipm4u.com](mailto:rkramer@ipm4u.com)'; 'Joshua A. Kramer'; 'Tom Delaney'; '[dhoskins@pestfacts.org](mailto:dhoskins@pestfacts.org)'

**Cc:** Bob Rosenberg; Missy Henriksen

**Subject:** RE: Montgomery County Council Committee discussion on pesticide use on September 9

Per the previous email, below is information about the September 9 Montgomery County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment Committee meeting.

[http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/agenda/cm/current\\_com\\_agn.pdf](http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/agenda/cm/current_com_agn.pdf)

**T&E 10:00 AM - 7CHR To be televised live on County Cable Montgomery**

**Sep 9 • Bill 2-13, Streets and Roads - Reconstruction - Coordination (Faden/Orlin)**

**• Discussion - Pesticides and pesticide use in the County (Levchenko)**

• Supplemental appropriation and CIP amendment - DOT - 2,000,000 for Resurfacing:  
Residential/Rural Roads

**Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment (T&E) Committee**

Roger Berliner, Chair

Nancy Floreen

Hans Riemer

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**From:** Gene Harrington

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2013 3:22 PM

**To:** [mnixon@americanpest.net](mailto:mnixon@americanpest.net); [gonzalezj@capitolpest.com](mailto:gonzalezj@capitolpest.com); [Brian@capitolpest.com](mailto:Brian@capitolpest.com); [brucemorgan@comcast.net](mailto:brucemorgan@comcast.net); ['ngoldenberg@terminix.com'](mailto:'ngoldenberg@terminix.com'); ['cgorecki@rollins.com'](mailto:'cgorecki@rollins.com'); [mark@prolawnplus.com](mailto:mark@prolawnplus.com); [wwhite@americanpest.net](mailto:wwhite@americanpest.net); Jim Fredericks; 'Walters, Tom'; [rkramer@ipm4u.com](mailto:rkramer@ipm4u.com); 'Joshua A. Kramer'; 'Tom Delaney'; ['dhoskins@pestfacts.org'](mailto:'dhoskins@pestfacts.org')

**Cc:** Bob Rosenberg; Missy Henriksen

**Subject:** FW: Montgomery County Council Committee discussion on pesticide use on September 9

Staff for Montgomery County Council invited NPMA to attend and participate in an upcoming September 9 committee hearing on pesticides.

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**From:** Levchenko, Keith [<mailto:Keith.Levchenko@montgomerycountymd.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2013 2:46 PM

**To:** Gene Harrington

**Subject:** Montgomery County Council Committee discussion on pesticide use on September 9

Dear Mr. Harrington:

On September 9 at 10:15 AM at the Council Office Building in Rockville, Maryland, the Montgomery County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment Committee is scheduled to discuss pesticides. This item was requested for discussion by Councilmember Leventhal and is in response to the District of Columbia and the City of Takoma Park passing legislation that adds additional regulation/requirements beyond current Fed/State law. Below are the general topics the Committee will be discussing. We are working to assemble a panel of speakers to provide summary information and to answer questions.

- Current Federal, Maryland, and Montgomery County requirements with regard to pesticide use in Montgomery County
- Summary of research findings regarding the environmental and health effects of pesticide use
- Montgomery County Govt and Agency Pesticide practices on public land.
- Current education and outreach efforts by County Govt and County Agencies with regard to pesticide best practices
- Discussion of the Pesticide Education and Control Amendment Act of 2012 (DC) and the City of Takoma Park's "Safe Grow Act of 2013"

Given that the National Pest Management Association represents thousands of pest management professionals around the world and works on pesticide issues on a regular basis, I think Councilmembers would be interested in hearing your organization's views at this meeting. Please let me know if you or someone else from your organization will be able to attend the meeting. Also, if there are any materials you feel would be helpful for the Committee to have in advance, please forward them to me so that I can consider including them in my Staff packet for the meeting.

Thanks for your help.

## **Keith Levchenko**

Senior Legislative Analyst  
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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

To Montgomery County Council members

From: Stanton Gill

I am an Extension Specialist in IPM with the University of Maryland Extension based at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Clarksville, Maryland. My role with the University of Maryland is to work with the green horticulture industry in Maryland and promoting integrated pest management techniques. I am also an adjunct professor in the Landscape Technology program at the Germantown campus of Montgomery College where I teach a 3 credit class in Integrated Pest Management for landscape and nursery.

I sat in on the September 9, 2013 pesticide regulation investigative committee meeting and was impressed with the interest of the council to expand their knowledge of pest control in the landscape. Protecting the health of the counties residents should be a primary concern. Unnecessary use of pesticides is an unwise practice. I appreciate your open-mindedness in weighing all the options before proceeding with proposed regulations. One thing was not clear is whether this is proposed regulations

In a perfectly balanced ecosystem disease, predators and parasites should control pests before they grow to levels that can destroy an environment. It is challenging for an urban landscape to reach a level of perfect ecological balance for many reasons such as poor quality soils, too much or too little rain, cold winters, hot summers and other outside influences. To obtain and maintain the ecological balance of a landscape involves lots of hard work, many inputs including adding organic materials to soils, improving soil fertility, improving soil drainage, and selecting the right plant material. Even when all of this is done correctly insects, diseases and weeds can reach unacceptable levels in some years causing large economic loss of plant material. In balanced landscapes predators and parasites then build up and bring the level back into balance in future years. One of the questions that face a homeowner is whether it is best to standby and suffer the economic loss and start over or try to contain the pest and keep economic loss to the minimum. These is a decision that each person should and must reach on their

own but hopefully based on knowledge imparted by trained experts in the field of horticulture.

One of the most unfortunate societal choices over the last 30 years has been to import heavily, without allowing proper time for thorough inspection of goods, from other countries. The negative impact on our environment has come from the introduction of invasive species. Invasive species of insects, diseases and weeds from other locals are accidentally brought into landscapes causing a major imbalance. Many of these insect, diseases and weed pests can severely impact a landscape causing loss of plant material and degradation of the ecological balance. These exotic, invasive pests often arrive in our countries without the benefit of natural biological control to keep them in check.

Biological control of these introduced invasive pests is preferable but before we can introduce new predators and parasites they must be investigated over several years and evaluated to make sure they will not create new problems themselves. After this it takes several years of building up the predator or parasite population to effectively bring the pest under control. In this interim time the economic losses can be monumental. Physical control is feasible if detections are made early. Once a pest spreads then we must have effective chemical control options to contain the invasive species until suitable biological control that is effective can be developed to bring the eco-system back into balance.

A science-based approach to dealing with insect diseases and weeds is the most logical way to approach a level of control.

Integrated pest management uses an ecologically based strategy which includes:

- Identification of specific insect, disease or weed
- Understanding the life cycle of the pest and susceptible life stage for control options
- Use of pest-resistant plants and landscape design to prevent problems
- Planting, irrigating, and other landscape care practices that keep plants healthy
- Biological control where feasible

- Use of less-toxic pesticides such as botanical insecticides, oils, and soaps, Insect Growth Regulators, mulches, pest barriers, and other physical and mechanical controls
- Low risk pesticides targeted to specific pest timed correctly

The University of Maryland Extension has an excellent faculty member, Chuck Schuster, who is an Extension Educator stationed at the Montgomery County Extension office. Chuck works closely with the horticulture industry in promotion of IPM concepts. Steve Dubik is the coordinator of Master Gardeners in Montgomery County and he provides training to the Master Gardeners in IPM methods. The Master Gardeners work directly with the public through plants clinics and lectures for the public to help promote IPM practices.

Our IPM team members who work directly with the horticulture industry in Maryland include Dr. Karen Rane, Director of the Plant Diagnostic Clinic, Dr. Paula Shrewsbury, Extension Entomologist, Dr. Michael Raupp, Extension Entomologist, Dr. David Clement, Plant Pathologist, Dr. Andrew Ristvey, Extension Specialist in Horticulture, Dr. Amy Brown, Extension Specialist in Pesticide safety, Chuck Schuster, Extension Educator in Horticulture and Agriculture, Ginny Rosenkranz, Extension Educators in Horticulture, Suzanne Klick, lead technician at CMREC, and myself. This team of Extension educators conducts diagnostic clinics training clinics, seminars, and field days for the horticulture industry to help people in the industry correctly identify insects, diseases and pests of the landscape and how to use IPM to deal with these problems.

The University of Maryland has been training people in the horticulture industry in these techniques over the last 30 years. All certified pesticide applicators must attend updates on new IPM techniques and new low risk pesticide control options. Correct use of predators and parasite releases is also emphasized at these seminars. Professional horticulture associations such as the Landscape Contractors Association, Professional Grounds Association, the Maryland Nursery and landscape Association, and Maryland Arborist Association have conducted training with the University of Maryland Extension and other educational organization in training their member in the latest safety methods and IPM methods.

As a professional educator I firmly believe we can change practices through educational outreach. Creating new regulations may seem at first to be the most effective method but often people find ways to circumvent regulations. Also, many small operations operate without the required licensing and insurance required by

State law. These small, illegal operations need to be prosecuted, fined and brought under the existing licensing required by the state. I would suggest increasing efforts and financing of education of adopting IPM practices. This approach has greater chances of producing measurable change compared to dubious benefit from developing new regulations.

We operate a web page called IPMnet ([www.Extensuion.UMD.edu.IPM](http://www.Extensuion.UMD.edu.IPM)) which provides the horticulture industry in Maryland with IPM research and updates on a weekly basis. We also send out a weekly IPM Alert that goes out to over 1700 professional horticulturist every Friday to keep them abreast to current pest activity and suggest IPM control methods.

There is a giant gaps of knowledge in new and effective biological control options in lawns and landscapes that can only be only effectively be evaluated through field research projects. If Montgomery County government wants to be progressive in this effort consider offering grant money to support additional research in biological and alternative pest control materials.