

# **POLICY: Herbicide use on Monhegan Associates' Wildlands**

Authors: Rebecca FitzPatrick, Frederick Faller  
Voted 11-0 by MAI Trustees on June 27, 2020

*This policy acknowledges that the Monhegan Associates Bylaws are the governing document for all Monhegan Associates activities. With that in mind, this policy supersedes all prior policies or statements specifically related to the contents of this document.*

## **Objective**

The aim of the Monhegan Associates Inc. is to preserve the natural state of Monhegan's wildlands while limiting the impacts of human intervention whenever possible. In keeping with that aim, on the recommendation of the Ecology Committee, in 2013 the Monhegan Associates trustees voted to not allow the use of herbicides of any kind on Monhegan Associates owned lands.

## **Definitions**

- **Herbicide** - a substance that is toxic to plants, used to destroy unwanted vegetation. Examples include but are not limited to commercially available products such as glyphosate or "RoundUp" and homemade herbicides using vinegar, etc.

## **Rationale**

Research has shown that herbicides are not only toxic to the species they are used to target, but also can be highly toxic to human beings and non-target plant species. Herbicides, including homemade solutions containing vinegar, can remain active in the environment for long periods of time, potentially causing soil and water contamination and adverse effects to nontarget organisms. In some cases, compounds that result from herbicide degradation may continue to be significantly toxic in the environment.

# Appendix

## Internal References

These internal references are among the Monhegan Associates' documents that have been consulted when writing this policy:

Monhegan Associates 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4W8M1JJHy9dQIFGd1IFNXJJXzA>

Certificate of Organization, Monhegan Associates Bylaws:

<http://monheganassociates.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/bylaws2008-complete.pdf>

## External References

These external references were among other documents that were considered when writing this policy:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Managing Invasive Plants, Impacts of Chemical Methods

<https://www.fws.gov/invasives/staffTrainingModule/methods/chemical/impacts.html>

Scientific American: Herbicides Prove Deadly to Human Cells:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/weed-whacking-herbicide-p/>

Mother Earth News: Hazards of the World's Most Common Herbicide:

<https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/hazards-of-worlds-most-common-herbicide-zmaz05onzsel>

Regarding the use of vinegar as an herbicide:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/gardening/a20705796/vinegar-weed-killer-da-nger/>