



Allowable Herbicides for Schools & Day Care Centers

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Under NYS Law Chapter 85, Laws of 2010 (Child Safe Playing Fields Law), all schools and day care centers must comply with restrictions on pesticide use. The law restricts use of pesticides to products containing active ingredients listed as exempt under 25(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The pesticides must also include inert ingredients that are eligible under 4a of the 25(b) FIFRA exemption. Pesticides containing any active or inert ingredients not listed under the exemption and eligibility criteria of 25(b) FIFRA must receive one-time emergency application approval from appropriate channels.

The post-emergence herbicides that qualify under the EPA exemption of 25(b) FIFRA work primarily as defoliant that knock down the leaf and stem tissues of plants in contact with the herbicide. For perennials, roots and rhizomes are generally able to regrow in several weeks, requiring two to three applications in a season.

The only pre-emergent herbicide with EPA exemption status is corn gluten meal (CGM). CGM must be applied in early spring before weed seeds emerge. In the spring, CGM should be applied when the crocus flowers are in bloom and before forsythia shrub blossoms emerge. Many annual weed seeds germinate when soil temperatures reach 55 degrees F—the same temperature that triggers flowering of forsythia shrubs. Be aware that adding the recommended rate of 20 lbs/1,000 sq ft of CGM will result in a substantial nitrogen addition of 2 lbs/1,000 sq ft. CGM is 10% nitrogen by weight.

Allowable herbicides (Do not need emergency application approval)

Table 1: EPA 25(b) FIFRA exempt herbicides that do not require “emergency application” approval		
Product Name	Active Ingredient(s)	Parent company
Ecosmart Weed & Grass Killer	2-Phenethyl Propionate, eugenol	EcoSMART
Burnout II Weed & Grass Killer	Citric acid & clove oil	St. Gabriel Organics
Weed Zap	Cinnamon oil, clove oil	JH Biotech Inc.
C-cide	Citric acid	Biological Solutions
Brush, Weeds, and Grass Herbicide	Citric acid	Greenenergy
Matratec	Clove oil	Brandt
Matran EC	Clove oil	EcoSmart Technologies
Phydura	Citric acid, malic acid, clove oil	Soil Technologies Corporation
Several brands available	Corn gluten meal	Several vendors
GreenMatch EX Herbicide	Lemongrass oil	Bio Marrone Innovations