

Chemicals Used at Glen Oaks Manor
as of September 2023

By Jerry Edington

Pesticides, herbicides, fungicide and fertilizer at Glen Oaks Manor (GOM) are distributed by two companies:

1. TruScapes, our major landscape contractor, applies only Green Gobbler, a non-selective herbicide made of 20 percent vinegar, which presents minimal risk to humans and dogs.
2. Gardenmasters, a subsidiary of TruScapes, applies organic fertilizer, two types of insecticides, spot treats areas with a selective herbicide and treats limited areas rarely with a fungicide.

Most of the applied products are relatively mild and do not pose significant health risks to dogs or people when used according to manufacturer's label guidelines.

There is one product that carries a higher risk of toxicity. It is MSM 60 DF herbicide. Of all the products used, it carries the highest risk of being poisonous to dogs. It is sprayed twice a year to kill weeds which have invaded grassy areas. According to my interviews, after it has dried (24 hours after application), it is safe for dogs to walk where it was sprayed. When wet, obviously, sprayed areas should not be walked on.

Below are the other products Gardenmasters uses on our grounds:

Meridian insecticide is applied in May to control insects in grass. Its active ingredient is Thiamethoxam, which is in the same chemical class as Advantage, a flea control product for dogs. According to its label, it is safe for dogs, but toxic to bees and aquatic life.

Imidacloprid insecticide is applied in August as an additional means to help control insect pests in grass. It is the same active ingredient as in Advantage, the flea preventative used on dogs. According to the label, it is safe for use around dogs, but toxic to aquatic invertebrates.

Heritage fungicide, with active ingredient Azoxystrobin, is applied very rarely, in very limited locations, and only when fungal infections exist. Heritage's label indicates little toxicity to humans and pets when applied according to label instructions but skin and eye irritation can result. Prolonged, repeated exposure to Heritage can be toxic. Heritage poses moderate risk to fish, earthworms and bees.

Organic granular fertilizer has no warning statements and is applied according to basic University of Florida 2007 guidelines.

GOM management has proposed that Gardenmasters inform TruScapes four (4) days prior to administration of any products. In turn, TruScapes would inform Casey Management in time for GOM owners to receive at least two days' email notice, so they can manage their pets accordingly.

In addition, the landscape committee is in discussions with Gardenmasters to improve signage on GOM grounds when chemicals are applied. This would alert owners to avoid walking on turf areas where any product has been applied for 24 hours.

Material Safety Data sheets (MSDS) of products referred to are attached.

This report is based on interviews with executives of TruScapes and Gardenmasters, and is current as of September 2023.