

**Challenges of Weed Management in Urban Areas.** Chris A. Geiger, Ph.D. Toxics Reduction and Healthy Ecosystems Program, San Francisco Department of the Environment, San Francisco, CA. [chris.geiger@sfgov.org](mailto:chris.geiger@sfgov.org)

Effective weed management efforts in major urban centers require more than the latest research findings or cost analyses. Particularly in cities with a politically involved citizenry, weed control actions may also involve public education, risk communication, citizen involvement, and navigating political processes in addition to simply meeting land management goals. Action thresholds in urban weed management differ from agricultural situations in that they are not tied to economic losses; instead, they are tied to public safety, public health, environmental, operational and aesthetic factors. These unquantifiable factors further complicate the task of landscape managers. In this presentation, the speaker will tell the story of San Francisco's recent weed management efforts, with emphasis on public processes underway since 2015, when the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) reclassified glyphosate as a Probable Carcinogen. In these processes, conflicting community values over biodiversity and pesticide risks have come to the fore, challenging established land management efforts, the city's Integrated Pest Management Program, and San Francisco's commitment to the Precautionary Principle.