



# Pesticide-free public spaces a first step in the transition to green cities

# Introduce

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# CONTENT

- 
- History
  - Changing laws and regulations?
  - Vital Soil
  - Biological / Ecological Management
  - Steps to take



# History



- Discussion about chemical-free management before 1989.
- Many municipalities switched quickly; especially in green.



## The ban on chemical use

- ✓ Since 2016 for municipalities on paved surfaces
- ✓ Since 2017 for municipalities also in green

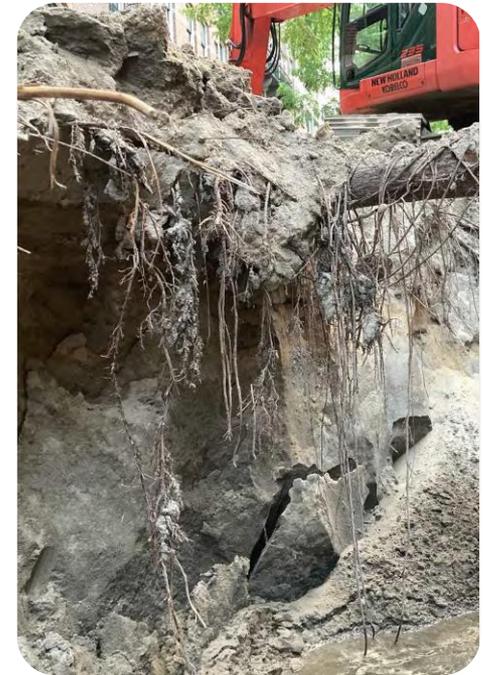


Green Deal Sports & Recreation, after 2022 no more crop protection products may be used

# Laws and regulations

## Reason for the ban on the use of plant protection products and biocides

- Continuous contact athletes with toxic substances
- Soil Degeneration
- Dangerous for humans and animals
- Soil quality (soil life)



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# Laws and regulations

Studies & research since  
ban takes effect



- The water quality of the surface water in ditches, ponds, rivers and lakes has improved significantly since 2016 and is increasingly meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive
- Attention to urban soil quality

# Vital soil = Necessary (Certainly to be able to work chemical-free)



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# Vital soil

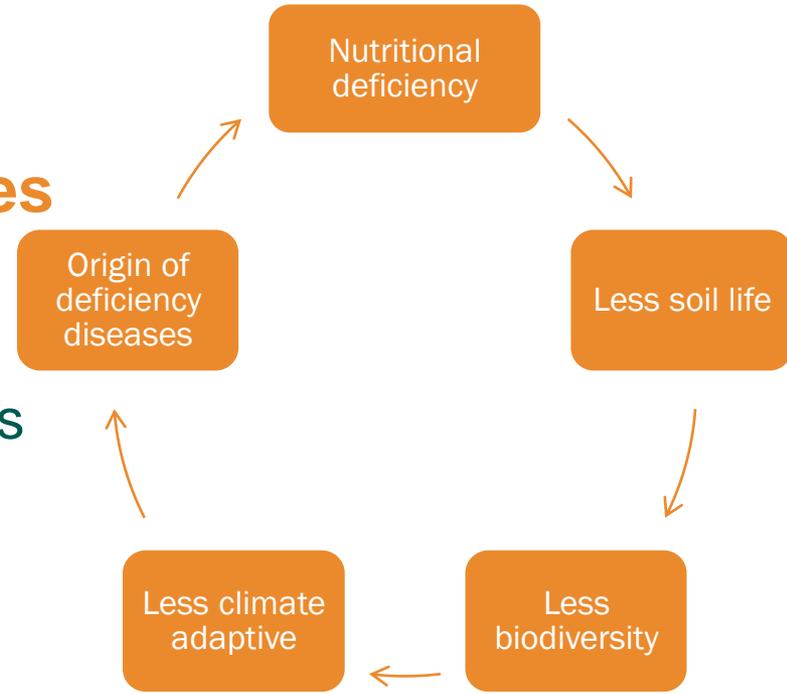
## Consequences of pesticides on the soil

- Extraction of oxygen and sugars from soil and plants

- Especially the death of soil life

And the useful fungi

- Accelerate soil compaction



# Biological/ Ecological Management



## When switching to completely chemical-free management

- Restoration of new balance is needed!
- Transition period needed and keep balancing
  1. after 3 to 5 months no pesticides and nitrate/phosphate, development of micro-soil life starts
  2. after two years, most soils are stable

# Biological/ Ecological Management

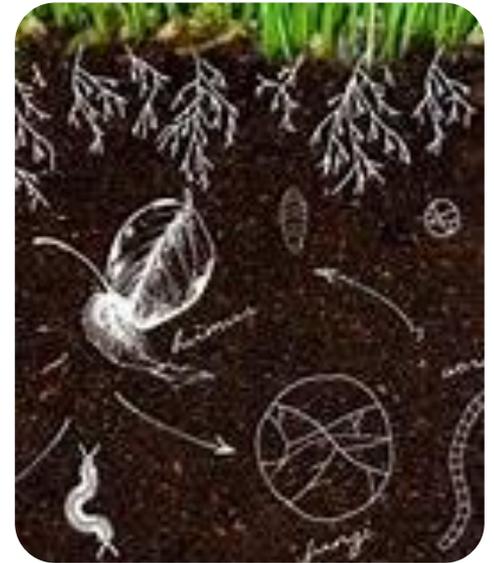
## Managing towards a soil in balance:

- Ensuring a healthy soil and
- Increase resistance of vegetation  
(less susceptible to diseases and pests)

## Through:

- Activating soil life
- Increase water buffering capacity

In time, the soil will be more resilient to climate extremes (drought and wet periods)



# Biological/ Ecological Management



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# Steps to take



1. Getting the latest municipalities
2. Also include sports and recreation under the ban and guide the sector during the switch
3. More awareness and information towards society/residents



## The soil as a basis for a climate-robust living environment

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# Questions and closing



Thank you for your  
attention

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