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**MAINE BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL INTERIM POLICY TO
DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE STAFF TO APPROVE REQUESTS FOR
VARIANCE FROM CMR 01-026 CHAPTER 29 FOR CONTROL OF PLANTS
THAT POSE A DERMAL TOXICITY HAZARD**

Adopted November 18, 2011

BACKGROUND

In September 1995, the Board delegated the authority to approve repeated requests for variance from the sensitive area identification requirements of CMR 01-026 Chapter 22. Since that time, the Board delegated similar authority for certain variance requests for broadcast pesticide applications within the 25-foot untreated buffer zone required by CMR 01-026 Chapter 29.

In Chapter 29, applications to control arthropod vectors of human disease and stinging insects are exempted, but applications to control vegetation that causes public health issues are not.

Recently, a variance request was submitted for control of poison ivy. There was urgency to the request, since it involved an infestation that blocked the landowner's only access to the waterfront. However, due to the timing, the request had to wait five weeks to be considered at the next Board meeting. The Board granted the variance and asked the staff to develop a policy to allow the staff to approve similar requests in the future with an emphasis on Best Management Practices (BMPs). For BMP information, applicants can be directed to the Board's *GotPests?* website, where there are seven fact sheets that provide excellent management information.

The staff recommends the following interim policy:

POLICY

The Board delegates the authority to approve requests for variance from CMR 01-026 Chapter 29, Section 6, for the control of plants that pose a dermal toxicity hazard. Those plants may include, but are not limited to:

- Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)
- Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)
- Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron toxicarium*)
- Poison Sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*)
- Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

The variance must include agreement to use low-pressure, handheld application equipment, and the spray must be directed away from the water with no drift or direct discharge to the water body or wetland.