

## **SFSU Facilities Services Campus Grounds Organic Materials Review** **Landscaping**

On March 3, 2017, SFSU Facilities and Campus Grounds operations began piloting the use of Organic Materials Review Institute recommended products having active main ingredients of Clove Oil and Citric Acid. This decision was in keeping with the effort to seek out the most effective, yet sustainable, methods to control weeds on the campus grounds.

Over the 15 months of this pilot program, the Grounds crew has reported that the Clove Oil and Citric Acid products is ineffective in controlling weeds, and the university has seen an increase in the use of hand-weeding, with an attendant increase in worker's compensation concerns and a decrease in productivity.

In consultation with the SFSU Environment, Health, and Safety Director, there are currently no prohibitions against the use of glyphosate, when following proper application procedures and notifications, and the university intends to apply this herbicide on campus grounds, where appropriate. Glyphosate has been thoroughly tested and determined not to cause cancer or other adverse long-term health effects. To avoid any parental concerns regarding the use of this product, SFSU has decided against using this solution in areas around the children's campuses. EHS will continue to monitor local, state, and federal regulations, as well as definitive health studies regarding the use of the Ranger product.

SF State has a goal of implementing organic and sustainable solutions, while balancing the health and job satisfaction of our employees and prudent stewardship of our campus resources. The Grounds department will continue to focus its landscaping choices on drought-tolerant and native landscape plants that require less pre-emptive defenses against weeds, and continue to use hand-weeding, where it is safe and effective for campus Grounds staff to do so.