



January 1, 2020 will likely bring a variety of questions regarding hemp, CBD and medical marijuana. More recently, the public has contacted Extension and Master Gardeners about the social and personal concerns over the herbicide glyphosate. Two long standing topics have been mushrooms and herbs used for health purposes. Below are the current guidelines to be used when the above topics come in via email, phone, face to face setting, etc.

### **Hemp, CBD, and Medical Marijuana Questions to Master Gardeners**

For the immediate future, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener volunteers will not answer questions involving hemp, CBD, medical marijuana or similarly related topics. Our policy is to share unbiased, research-based information from the University of Illinois and other land grant institutions on topics that our volunteers have been trained on. Currently we do not have any research information from the University and have no training available for our volunteers at this time.

When responding, please let them know that we do not have any information to share at this time. If they are calling to inquire about commercial hemp production on a large or small scale, please refer that question like you would any commercial question to your coordinator and/or educator.

### **Glyphosate and Cancer Questions to Master Gardeners**

For the immediate future, the best we can say is that Extension does not have a policy on glyphosate, if the client wants to use the product they should read and follow all label instructions. Additionally, if a client determines they are not interested in chemical weed control you can recommend other weed management strategies using the **Pest Management for the Home Landscape** book as your source of herbicide and alternative control information. Offer all of the options to the client, leaving out your own personal bias towards a particular management solution.

### **Mushroom Identification and Edibility Questions to Master Gardeners**

It is Extension's policy not to comment on if a mushroom is edible or can be safely ingested. This is due to the hazards associated with wild mushrooms and how improper diagnosis can be made based on similarities in species. Official positive identification of a mushroom involves lab analysis. Simply let the client know that Extension does not comment on edibility. This policy protects not only the client but also Extension.

### **Herbs for Medicinal Purposes and other Related Medicinal Plant Questions to Master Gardeners**

Like hemp, CBD, and medical marijuana as listed above, we simply do not have the scientific, university research based information or training to support any medical claims for using plants for medicinal purposes. Therefore we do not answer questions related to these uses or present programs on the topic.