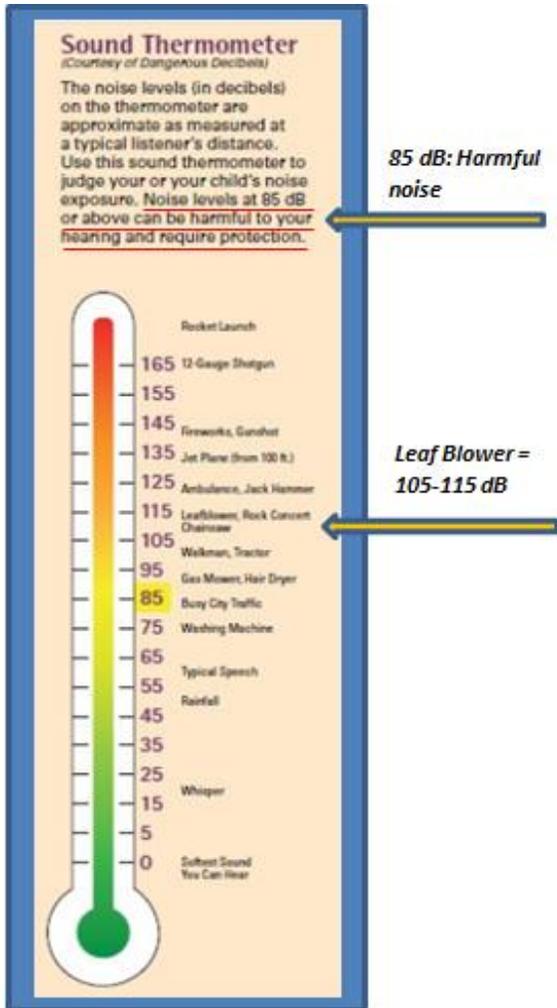


Scientific and Organizational Statements on the Adverse Effects of Leaf Blower-Related Noise Pollution



Source: US EPA brochure: *Noise and Its Effect on Children*

Children's Environmental Health Network

Children develop better concentration skills in a quiet environment. Children who are exposed to noise pollution while learning are more likely to experience reading delays. Children who suffer from noise pollution learn to tune out not only noise but also the teacher's voice, which can harm their reading and language skills. Children have more difficulty understanding spoken language and distinguishing the sounds of speech when learning in a noisy environment. Children who spend time in noisier areas have higher resting blood pressure and higher stress levels.

National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, *Noise Induced Hearing Loss*

Approximately 15 percent of Americans between the ages of 20 and 69—or 26 million Americans—have high frequency hearing loss that may have been caused by exposure to loud sounds or noise at work or in leisure activities

...Harmful noises at home may come from lawnmowers, leaf blowers, and shop tools.

US Environmental Protection Agency

Noise: A Health Problem

The U.S. EPA says noise degrades quality of life by impairing communication and social interaction; reducing the accuracy of work, particularly complex tasks; and creating stressful levels of frustration and aggravation that last even when the noise has ceased.

World Health Organization

Burden of Disease from Environmental Noise

There is overwhelming evidence that exposure to environmental noise has adverse effects on the health of the population. Recognizing the special need to protect children from the harmful effects of noise, [there was a call for] all stakeholders to work together to reduce the exposure of children to noise...There is sufficient evidence from large-scale epidemiological studies linking the population's exposure to environmental noise with adverse health effects. Therefore, environmental noise should be considered not only as a cause of nuisance but also a concern for public health and environmental health.

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