Introduction

Despite claims to the contrary, overall, there are NO viable, efficacious, or economical Green Alternatives to replace conventional pest control products. VIRTUALLY ALL Green Alternatives are BOGUS, displaying NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS such as —

- Green Alternatives may be almost TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE except under very specific circumstances.
- Green Alternatives may require EXTREMELY—HIGH—INPUTS of ACTIVE INGREDIENT since they will otherwise be LESS EFFECTIVE.
- Green Alternatives may be PROHIBITED in some jurisdictions.
- Green Alternatives may be questionably higher in TOXICITY.
- Green Alternatives may be STUNNINGLY MORE EXPENSIVE to use when compared to conventional pest control products.
- Green Alternatives may be supplied by the same Environmental–Terror–Organizations that sought the prohibition of conventional pest control products.
- Green Alternatives may have NEGATIVE SIDE—EFFECTS like PHYTO—TOXICITY (an effect that adversely affects plant growth) or CORROSION.
- Green Alternatives may require MORE personal protection for the user.
- Green Alternatives may NOT BE SAFER, NOR BETTER, NOR MORE EFFECTIVE.

General Description of Fiesta

Fiesta is a Green Alternative to three–way phenoxy turf herbicides such as Killex. It is registered as a commercial herbicide concentrate and a lawn weed killer. Fiesta is packaged as a SOLUTION (SN).

Fiesta is registered for use on —

- athletic fields
- cemeteries
- golf courses
- lawns
- non–crop areas
- parks
- rights of way
Fiesta is registered for application on —

- Chewings fescue
- creeping fescue
- Kentucky bluegrass
- perennial ryegrass
- tall fescue

Application Rate of Fiesta

Fiesta requires EXTREMELY–HIGH–INPUTS of active ingredient.

The application rate is a WHOPPING 743.2 to 1486.4 millilitres (26.2 to 52.3 Imp. fluid ounces) in a HIGH VOLUME of 17.8 to 35.7 litres of water per 1000 square feet. By comparison, the rate of application of Killex, a conventional three-way phenoxy herbicide, is ONLY 56 millilitres per 1000 square feet.

According to Health Canada, the MINIMUM rate of Fiesta is intended for application to SMALLER WEEDS, while the MAXIMUM rate is intended for application to LARGER WEEDS, or more difficult to control perennial weeds.

Experimental results were adequate to allow a maximum LIMIT of two applications per season with no less than four weeks between applications. For effective weed control, TWO SUCCESSIVE APPLICATIONS of Fiesta will likely be necessary in most situations. With this LIMITATION in the number of applications per season, Fiesta can ONLY BE USED in either the spring or fall, but NOT BOTH.

Fiesta has a RAIN–FAST INTERVAL of three hours.

Cost of Fiesta

Fiesta is STUNNINGLY MORE EXPENSIVE than conventional pest control products.

The COST of an application of Fiesta may range from 13 to 26 dollars per 1000 square feet. This represents a cost that is 31 to 62 times higher than Killex.
Because of its cost, *Fiesta* may be better suited for LIMITED SPOT APPLICATIONS, and certainly CANNOT be a major component in a complete weed control program.

Because the cost of this product is prohibitive, there may be issues with some lawn care operators who will « *spike* » their BLANKET WEED CONTROL PROGRAMS with 2,4–D and illegal Beet Juice in order to PROVIDE EFFECTIVE WEED CONTROL. This will give the FALSE IMPRESSION that *Fiesta* is efficacious AND economical.

**Cornerstones for Effective Weed Control Programs**

Within the collective history of the Green Space Industry, there is considerable experience and research regarding the effective implementation of weed control programs.

For EFFECTIVE WEED CONTROL, there are THREE MAINTENANCE CORNERSTONES that must be adopted in order to SATISFY a Professional Lawn Care customer —

- A customer must be provided with a THICK LAWN.
- A customer must be provided with a GREEN LAWN.
- A customer must be provided with a WEED–FREE LAWN.

Additionally, there is the PRINCIPAL CORNERSTONE FOR ADEQUATE BROAD–LEAVED WEED CONTROL —

For established customers with a well–maintained lawn, TWO TO TWO–AND–A–HALF BLANKET APPLICATIONS OF A THREE–WAY HERBICIDE ARE NECESSARY EVERY SEASON for adequate broad–leaved weed control. This philosophy is even reflected in the *Killex* label recommendations.

It will be very difficult to « *fit* » a product like *Fiesta* within these CORNERSTONES.

**Active Ingredient**

*Fiesta* contains 4.43 per cent Fe (iron present as FeHEDTA). According to *Health Canada*, *Fiesta* iron is CHELATED with *hydroxyethylenediaminetriacetic acid* (HEDTA) to form FeHEDTA. Interestingly, 2,4–D is also an ACETIC ACID.
The undesired broad-leaved plants are generally MORE SUSCEPTIBLE to the herbicidal effects of FeHEDTA than the desirable turfgrass species.

*Fiesta* requires EXTREMELY–HIGH–INPUTS of active ingredient when compared to conventional pest control products. The exceedingly high a.i. rate of *Fiesta* seems to fly in the face of the desired environmentalist objective of REDUCING the amount of active ingredient being applied in pest control product programs.

For *Fiesta*, the rate of active ingredient (a.i.) is 32.92 to 65.85 grams Fe per 1000 square feet. By comparison, the rate of active ingredient of 2,4-D in *Killex* is 10.4 grams per 1000 square feet. *Fiesta* requires 3 to 6 times more a.i. than *Killex*.

Moreover, since *Fiesta* contains a «metal ingredient», there will inevitably develop the same controversy that led to the demise of the fertilizer *Milorganite* in Canada in the 1980s and 90s. The «heavy metal» content of *Milorganite* was FALSELY ALLEGED by Environmental–Maniac–Activist to lead to health problems like Lou Gehrig’s Disease and the product was withdrawn for several years.

**Control vs Suppression**

*Fiesta* is NOT MORE EFFECTIVE when compared to conventional pest control products like 2,4-D or *Killex*.

In its advertising campaign, the manufacturer of *Fiesta* tends to use the terms «control» and «suppression» interchangeably, although the *Fiesta* label itself mostly employs the term «control», except for Broad–Leaved Plantain, which can only be «suppressed», or PARTIALLY CONTROLLED, by *Fiesta*.

It is likely that only «suppression» will be achieved with *Fiesta* if only a single application of *Fiesta* is performed. For effective weed «control», TWO SUCCESSIVE APPLICATIONS of *Fiesta* may be necessary in most situations. Since only two applications per year are permitted, *Fiesta* can only be used in either spring or fall.

Predictably, moss and algae are also «suppressed» by *Fiesta*.

It is interesting to note the manufacturer’s series of testimonial photos showing Dandelion «deaths» were staged in the middle of a «weed garden», rather than a true representative turfgrass sward.
Number of Weed Species Controlled

Only THIRTEEN weeds are indicated on the Fiesta label, as opposed to FIFTY for Killex. This will lead to issues with Professional Lawn Care Companies, since the less comprehensive Fiesta label imposes legal limitations as to the species of weeds that can be GUARANTEED for control. With Fiesta, a customer may only be legally guaranteed control on thirteen weeds.

Phyto–Toxicity and Other Side–Effects

Fiesta may be higher in PHYTO–TOXICITY when compared to conventional pest control products. It also has MORE NEGATIVE SIDE–EFFECTS.

According to Health Canada, overall injury of Fiesta to turf is LOW, and phyto–toxic problems consists principally of LEAF DARKENING, and perhaps some LEAF NECROSIS, which is the premature death of cells and living tissue.

Predictably, since Fiesta is an iron–based product, turfgrass leaf blades can be expected to DARKEN, since using HIGH RATES OF IRON has traditionally led to the classic « blackening effect », which is caused by the oxidization of Fe particles on the surface of the leaf.

As with all iron products, there will be issues with STAINING OF HARD SURFACES, such as white concrete. Such stains are extremely difficult to remove.

Moreover, in order to avoid STAINING of customer shoes and clothing, the Fiesta label recommends waiting until treated area has dried before re–entry.

It must be remembered that the rate of active ingredient of Fiesta is 32.92 to 65.85 grams Fe per 1000 square feet, whereas conventional liquid iron products, such as Ferromec (6 per cent Fe) require only 9.2 to 13.6 grams Fe per 1000 square feet in order to provide a darker green turf, and not weed control.

Fiesta uses 2½ to 7 times more Fe than Ferromec.

Finally, as with all iron products, Fiesta may be CORROSIVE to certain metal parts on the sprayer used for its application.
Applicator Protection When Using Fiesta

*Fiesta* is NOT SAFER when compared to conventional pest control products.

*Fiesta* requires SLIGHTLY MORE personal protection for the user. The application of *Fiesta* requires protective eye–wear and waterproof gloves.

By comparison, *Killex* requires coveralls over a long–sleeved shirt, long pants, chemical–resistant gloves, socks and shoes, but NO eye–wear.

Health Effects of Fiesta

According to the *Fiesta* label, prolonged or frequently repeated skin contact may cause allergic reactions in some individuals.

According to *Health Canada*, the signal words for *Fiesta* are « potential skin sensitizer » and the statement « may cause skin sensitization » are required on the principal and the secondary display panels, respectively, of both the technical and end–use product labels.

*Fiesta* is NOT safer, since BOTH *Fiesta* and *Killex* have a LOW TOXICITY, with Oral LD$_{50}$ greater than 5000 mg per kg. This value indicates that BOTH products, in their concentrated pre–diluted form, are safer than household items such as baking soda, caffeine, ethanol, and table salt.

Fertilizer Tank Mix

*Fiesta* cannot be mixed with liquid fertilizer, whereas the *Killex* label permits tank–mixing. It is a STAND–ALONE product that must be applied separately from others.

Conclusion

*Fiesta* is NOT SAFER, NOR BETTER, NOR MORE EFFECTIVE when compared to conventional pest control products like 2,4–D or *Killex*.
Forces of Environmental Evil in the Town of Hudson, Quebec. Mr. Gathercole is the

volvement in Environmental Issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orchestrated, with his colleagues, legal action against the

Warning

We must defend the industry, whatever the cost may be!

The Whole Truth from an Independent Perspective