General Description of Fiesta Herbicide

Fiesta is a Green Alternative to three-way phenoxy turf herbicides such as Killex.

Active Ingredient

Fiesta contains 4.43 percent Fe (iron present as FeHEDTA). It is NOT a "natural" product.

According to Health Canada, Fiesta iron is chelated with hydroxyethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA) to form FeHEDTA.

Interestingly, 2,4-D is also an acetic acid.

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.

Application Rate of Fiesta

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.

The Fiesta label allows 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 on the number of applications per season, Fiesta can only be used in either the spring, or fall, but not both.

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 in Professional Lawn Care programs. It certainly cannot be a major component in a weed control program.
Number of Weed Species Controlled

Fiesta is NOT more effective when compared to conventional pest control products like 2,4–D or Killex.

ONLY THIRTEEN WEEDS are indicated on the Fiesta label, as opposed to OVER 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.

Applicator Protection When Using Fiesta

Fiesta is NOT safer when compared to conventional pest control products like Killex.

Fiesta requires slightly more personal protection for the applicator, since 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

Fiesta is NOT safer when compared to conventional pest control products like Killex.

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.

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 ».

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 1990s. The « heavy metal » content of Milorganite was falsely alleged by Environmental–Maniac–Activists to lead to health problems like Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Consequently, the product was withdrawn for several years.

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.

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 iron 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 the staining of by–stander shoes and clothing, the Fiesta label recommends waiting until treated area has dried before re–entry.

Finally, as with all iron products, Fiesta may be CORROSIVE to certain metal parts on the sprayer used for its application.
The people responsible for media releases at Nutri-Lawn are either mind-numbingly stupid or incompetent ... and most likely BOTH

On May 21st, 2010, the Organo-Maniac franchise Nutri-Lawn issued a reassuring media release concerning the herbicide Fiesta —

<< Nutri-Lawn, North America’s leader in ecological lawn care is very excited to offer its customers the best Natural [ ?!?! ] Weed Control product to hit the market since the Ontario wide ban of pesticides, one year ago.

Nutri-Lawn is proud to be one of the first companies to have tested the product, and now have this service into production throughout Ontario with plans for other markets this summer.

The active ingredient of Fiesta is Iron in the form of FeHEDTA. Fiesta iron is chelated with hydroxyethylenediaminetriaceticacid ( HEDTA ) to form FeHEDTA. Fiesta contains 4.43% iron in the form of FeHEDTA.

Fiesta’s mode of action is through iron toxicity ( oxidative damage ) at the cellular level. The excessive uptake of FeHEDTA by many broadleaf weeds leads to the contacted area to turn black and brown ( tissue necrosis ), and ultimately plant death. Broadleaf weeds ( dicots ) absorb and uptake iron differently than turf ( monocots ), which provides the mechanism of selectivity. Fiesta does not harm the desired grass, and results take place within hours after application. >>

Using terms like — « at the cellular level », « hydroxyethylenediaminetriaceticacid », « iron toxicity », « oxidative damage », « tissue necrosis », and « turn black and brown » — these ARE NOT terms that will reassure the public regarding the safety of Fiesta. In order to guarantee that Fiesta continue to remain available in the market-place, manufacturers, suppliers, and end-users must be EXTREMELY CAREFUL with their statements.

Nutri-Lawn was NOT careful with its statements regarding Fiesta.
The Milorganite–Lou–Gehrig Affair

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 1990s.

What happened?!?!

In the United States, a series of 1987 newspaper articles alleged that applications of Milorganite MAY have caused Lou Gehrig's Disease ("amyotrophic lateral sclerosis", or A.L.S. disease).

Why is A.L.S. called "Lou Gehrig's Disease"?!?!

In 1939, the New York Yankees baseball player Lou Gehrig announced his early retirement because he was stricken with the fatal neuro–muscular disease called A.L.S. disease that claimed his life two years later.

Gehrig gave a famous Farewell Speech on July 4th, 1939, at Yankee Stadium. Here is an excerpt —

<< Fans, for the past two weeks, you have been reading about a bad break I got. Yet today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth. >>

A.L.S. is a degenerative muscular and nerve disease. Throughout the world, this disease afflicts 1/4 people for every 100,000.

In 1985, "junk science" led to SPECULATION that the fertilizer Milorganite MIGHT have been responsible for A.L.S. disease.

In San Francisco, three players from the "49ers" football team were dying from A.L.S. disease. All three said the Big Goodbye between 1986 and 1989.

In the time remaining to them, they learned that Milorganite MAY have been applied on the team's practice field at some indeterminate time.

Badda–Bing, Badda–Bang — Milorganite became linked to A.L.S. disease.
Warning!

Enter the media! « USA Today » (the « CNN » of its day), and other newspapers, picked up the story. Consequently, the « junk science » regarding the safety of Milorganite was legitimized by the media.

Sound familiar?!?!

It should be noted that the inevitable review of the medical data conducted by a large group of federal, state, and local specialists DISPELLED ALL LINKS between Milorganite and A.L.S. disease.

Did « sound science » finally prevail over « junk science »?!? Not completely.

Speculation about the safety of Milorganite continued to be rampant, especially in those portions our society that has become INFESTED with the Environmental–Maniac–Activists.

That is ... the EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM and the CIVIL SERVICE.

Green Space Industry EDUCATORS have continuously been preaching as factual dogma the « junk science » that Milorganite had caused Lou Gehrig’s disease.

As a consequence of the Milorganite–Lou–Gehrig Affair, Canadian federal CIVIL SERVANTS discontinued the importation of Milorganite for several years.

Moreover, municipal CIVIL SERVANTS organized bids for fertilizers that expressly PROHIBITED any proposal for the use of Milorganite as a nitrogen source, as well as any other type of sewage sludge fertilizer.

The Green Space Industry suffered the CARNAGE caused by the « junk science » of Enviro–Maniac–Activists since, until the 1980s, Milorganite WAS a highly-used and highly-regarded fertilizer product.

Warning!

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 1990s. The « heavy metal » content of Milorganite was falsely alleged by Environmental–Maniac–Activists to lead to health problems like Lou Gehrig’s Disease, and the fertilizer was withdrawn for several years.
The Looming Fiesta–Hemochromatosis Affair ?!?!?

In those regions RAVAGED BY PROHIBITIONS of conventional pest control products, herbicides like Fiesta may be the BEST option available for the Professional Lawn Care Industry, as well as the Do-It-Yourself-Homeowner.

Those involved in the promotion of Fiesta must take a CAUTIOUS and REASSURING approach before the clamouring begins regarding its safety, otherwise, Fiesta MAY become associated with health problems like hemochromatosis.

The market longevity of Fiesta is at stake.

The industry must avoid non–reassuring and complicated terms like —

- at the cellular level
- hydroxyethylenediaminetriacetic acid
- iron toxicity
- oxidative damage
- tissue necrosis
- turn black and brown

Health Problems Associated with Iron

Within mere seconds, any Enviro-Mania-Activist can perform an Internet search, and conjure the following HEALTH PROBLEMS associated with IRON ... 

<< Hemochromatosis is the most common form of iron overload disease. Primary hemochromatosis, also called “hereditary hemochromatosis”, is an inherited disease. Secondary hemochromatosis is caused by anemia, alcoholism, and other disorders. >>

<< Juvenile hemochromatosis and neonatal hemochromatosis are two additional forms of the disease. Juvenile hemochromatosis leads to severe iron overload and liver and heart disease in adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 and 30. The neonatal form causes rapid iron build-up in a baby’s liver that can lead to death. >>

All you need is someone claiming to be sensitive to iron, and voilà, right back to where we were with Milorganite.
Force Of Nature is a report from the National Organization Responding Against Huje that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG). It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the Green Space Industry, the Environmental Terror Movement, Governments, and the Media, nationwide across Canada, the United States, and overseas. The information presented in Force Of Nature has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader by providing a sequence of historical events with commentary.

Huje is a term used to describe Enviro Maniac Activists that routinely concoct FEAR MONGERING, FRAUDULENT LIES, MISCONCEPTIONS, COERCION, THREATS, DECEPTIONS, TERROR, and PARANOID CONSPIRACIES that are designed to SCAM and DECEIVE the public into believing that families are in some NON–EXISTENT danger with conventional pest control products. Huje also SCAM and DECEIVE Government Officials into the NEEDLESS, SENSELESS, and MALICIOUS prohibition of FEDERALLY LEGAL, SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE, TOTALLY IRREPLACEABLE, and ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE conventional pest control products.

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Force Of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. Mr. Gathercole is a principal founder of the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry in BOTH Ontario and Quebec. He holds a degree in Horticulture from the UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, and another pure and applied science degree from the UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. He is a member of the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY, and has served in public affairs, workplace safety, and environmental compliance. Mr. Gathercole has supervised, consulted, and/or overseen the successful and safe execution of THOUSANDS of pest control applications in the urban landscape. He has trained, instructed, and consulted with THOUSANDS of turf managers and technicians. Mr. Gathercole has been an agricultural economist for more than a quarter century. Through Force Of Nature, Mr. Gathercole has continued his work to create the Golf Industry Exception Status, that enabled the control of Environmental Terror for the entire Modern Green Space Industry across Canada. Mr. Gathercole’s involvement in Environmental Issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orche-
We must promote and defend the industry, whatever the cost may be!