

LETTER TO THE EDITOR. THE DAILY NEWS. KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA. RESPONSE TO WARREN BELL CONCERNING WATER QUALITY. JULY 30th, 2011.

Warren Bell is WRONG !

The PROHIBITION of pest control products in the Province of Ontario DID NOT improve water quality.

ALMOST UNDETECTABLE LEVELS of pest control products were detected in Ontario streams EVEN BEFORE PROHIBITION.

Non-Expert Warren Bell alleges that the PROHIBITION of pest control products in the Urban Landscape somehow leads to lower concentrations of herbicide in stream water. [Wrong !]

This allegation is FALSE, MISLEADING, and CONTRADICTS OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF RESEARCH.

It is common knowledge within the LEGITIMATE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY that pest control products and fertilizers used for the maintenance of turfgrass areas ARE NOT CONSIDERED AS SERIOUS CONTAMINANTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

Researchers have shown that A HEALTHY, DENSE, AND PROPERLY-MAINTAINED TURFGRASS COVER will help RETAIN pest control products and fertilizers, acting like a GIANT SPONGE.

The leaves, the thatch, and the roots, as well as the soil medium, all interact to intercept most pest control product and fertilizer inputs.

The overall fate of pest control products and fertilizers used in the turfgrass environment has been estimated in DOZENS OF RESEARCH REPORTS examining RUN-OFF and LEACHING.

Here are some examples of the scientific conclusions from these reports —

- A healthy, dense, and properly-maintained turf cover significantly REDUCES the potential for run-off losses of pest control products and fertilizers

- Losses to surface run-off of pest control products and fertilizers applied to turfgrass DOES NOT APPEAR TO POSE A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD
- Natural precipitation events DOES NOT produce detectable run-off
- Pest control products DO NOT move in water, either off-site with run-off or down through the soil profile
- Even under highly exaggerated storm conditions, NO MORE THAN 5 PER CENT of the water ever runs-off from the turfgrass environment
- When turf is mature, healthy, dense, and properly-maintained, surface movement of water, nutrients, or pest control products is VERY LIMITED, regardless of concentration
- In the worst case events, transport is limited to LESS THAN 2 PER CENT of pest control products and less than 5 per cent of fertilizers
- Healthy, dense, and properly-maintained turf cover allows LESS THAN 1 PER CENT of the nitrogen fertilizer applied to leach to a root-zone depth of four feet
- Dietary risks with pest control products like 2,4-D from water and food are NOT OF CONCERN — NO ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS ARE EXPECTED from these products

Moreover, the mere ability to measure or detect the presence of a pest control product or fertilizer ingredient in the environment is NOT an indication that the substance poses any health risk, especially at the trace levels at which we can now detect them, which is in parts per trillion.

Furthermore, most pest control products used in the Urban Landscape have a SHORT HALF-LIFE in the environment — for example, 2,4-Herbicide has a relatively short half-life in water of 1 to 2 weeks.

Even at ALMOST UNDETECTABLE LEVELS, pest control products are SHORT-LIVED.

Pest control products are ACCEPTABLE FOR CONTINUED USE IN CANADA because ...

- Pest control products are APPROVED for use by Health Canada

- Health–Canada–Approved pest control products MEET STRICT HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS
- Pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE
- Health–Canada–Approved pest control products provide a reasonable certainty that NO HARM will occur from their use
- Overall, when they are used properly, there are NO harmful irreversible effects to health and the environment

The PROHIBITION of pest control products in the Urban Landscape will NOT improve the water quality of our streams and rivers.

It is a MYTH to believe that ANY PROHIBITION will protect the environment.

For more information, please go to the Pesticide Truths web site.

<http://pesticidetruths.com/>

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<http://uncleadolph.blogspot.com/>

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