

AUGUST 16th, 2011

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RESPONSE TO « *KEEP YOUR LAWN OFF THE DRUGS* »

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Here are some facts concerning pest control products —

First, they ARE NOT DRUGS — the use of this term is merely a cutesy way of getting people's attention.

Despite being described as « *potent and powerful chemicals* », conventional pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE !

They are among the MOST REGULATED PRODUCTS — virtually no other consumer product has been subject to the same level of scientific scrutiny and regulatory oversight as pest control products.

Pest control products used for turfgrass maintenance SELECTIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY CONTROL disease, insect, and weed pests, but are COMPLETELY SAFE for other non-target organisms.

They DO NOT INJURE TURFGRASSES, and have NO persistence beyond season of use.

Conventional pest control products are MORE EFFECTIVE than so-called Green Alternatives.

Unfortunately, there are NO viable, efficacious, or economical Green Alternatives available to replace conventional pest control products — they are mostly BOGUS, INEFFECTIVE, and STUNNINGLY EXPENSIVE !

Moreover, pest control products used in the Urban Landscape DO NOT enter lakes and rivers through surface run-off and storm sewers.

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

In addition, concerns have been raised about pest control products causing health issues, like cancer.

These concerns originate from organizations like Canadian-Cancer-Society and Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE).

These organizations are NEEDLESSLY ALARMIST with their ALLEGATIONS that pest control products MAY be the cause of certain types of cancer, ostensibly to increase donations to their organizations.

If they have some form of « *secret evidence* » to back up their ALLEGATIONS, they have yet to present substantiated findings to Health Canada.

Instead of increasing the public's awareness of the largest known preventable causes of cancer, such as smoking and diet, Canadian-Cancer-Society and CAPE

prefer SCAMMING, DECEIVING, and ALARMING the public into believing there is some IMAGINARY DANGER with conventional pest control products.

In fact, NO cause-and-effect relationship between pest control products and cancer has been established scientifically.

Moreover, NOT A SINGLE PERSON within Canadian-Cancer-Society or CAPE has ANY recognized expertise, training or background in matters concerning pest control products.

According to The Fraser Institute, the highly-rated Think-Tank of TRUE EXPERTS, PROHIBITIONS on the use of pest control product are ILL-CONCEIVED and DO NOT accurately reflect the current state of scientific knowledge.

Also according to The Fraser Institute, HASTY PROHIBITIONS of pest control products SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED until the underlying science is conclusive and until a comprehensive analysis of the potential side-effects resulting from the PROHIBITION has been undertaken.

Incredibly, some municipalities and provinces ARBITRARILY PROHIBIT pest control products that are, in fact, HEALTH-CANADA-APPROVED, FEDERALLY-LEGAL, and SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE.

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

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National Organization Responding Against HUIE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG)
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