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Pesticide not approved in Canada for use on park ticks

By CHRIS LAMBIE Business Reporter
Thu, Jun 17 - 4:54 AM



Bedford Coun. Tim Outhit has said he wants to set up deer bait stations around Admirals Cove Park to combat Lyme disease-carrying blacklegged ticks. (Photos by ERIC WYNNIE / Staff)



This sign at Bedford's Admirals Cove Park warns of ticks in the woods.

The head of the company that's about to spray a Bedford park for ticks fears Health Canada may nix the proposal.

The pesticide Dagnet is not approved for use in this country against blacklegged ticks, which can carry Lyme disease. But that's the same substance Halifax Regional Municipality plans to pay a pest control firm \$15,000 to spray in Admirals Cove Park next month.

"It's a strange situation. There's no ifs, ands or buts about it," said Don McCarthy, president of Braemar Pest Control Services.

The labels on Dagnet say it can be used in Canada against brown dog ticks and a whole host of other insects, he said.

"It doesn't mention the 15 other kinds of ticks that there are," McCarthy said.

Every use of an insecticide wouldn't likely fit on a label, he said.

"The label would be the size of an encyclopedia."

He has asked Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency for permission to use Dagnet in Bedford.

"We're still waiting on that decision. I'm not 100 per cent sure which way they're going to go."

If the regulator refuses to grant permission, he plans to ask for an "emergency" approval because this is a human health issue.

Four people who live near the park have contracted Lyme disease. The serious inflammatory condition produces flu-like symptoms and joint pain.

"If they do come back and say, 'No, we don't want you doing this,' then we'll have to look at other alternative," McCarthy said, noting a garlic-based spay is a possible option.

Dagnet is registered for outdoor tick control in the United States, he said.

"On the 49th parallel, things don't just change. If they've got the testing done by the (Environmental Protection Agency in the U.S.), why wouldn't Canada accept them?"

A Kentville employee with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency referred questions about the problem to Ottawa.

More than 24 hours after fielding a reporter's query about Dagnet, Health Canada was unable to provide someone to discuss the situation in an interview.

"The proposed use of Dagnet is not currently on the product label," department spokeswoman Ashley Lemire said late Wednesday in an email.

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"However, Health Canada can grant an emergency registration for use of a pesticide to control pest infestations that can cause significant economic, environmental or health problems. Health Canada will be providing the municipality with information on how to submit an emergency registration application for this proposed use."

Dragnet is "clearly effective in the United States" for use against blacklegged ticks, which are also known as deer ticks, said Richard MacLellan, manager of Halifax Regional Municipality's sustainable environment management office.

"There is no product in Canada that's approved for deer ticks," MacLellan said. "That's why we're looking for anything."

The problem is there's a "very small market for it in Canada because the problem with the ticks is relatively new and there's probably only a couple of thousand dollars worth of product sales in Canada for a year."

Testing to get approval to use a pesticide on the ticks in Canada could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, he said.

"So it just doesn't make sense for a registrant to bring a new product in specifically for deer ticks," MacLellan said.

The pesticide contains permethrin, a chemical used in flea treatments for dogs and even in the uniforms of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan.

MacLellan is hoping regulators allow the municipality to spray Dragnet to kill blacklegged ticks.

"It's approved for a bazillion things up here, and it's used in Canada on a bazillion things up here. Common sense and logic would tell you that it's an appropriate use."

(clambie@herald.ca)

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FRET wrote:

Then if it is not approved in Canada why even suggest it. If it is to be used in Bedford then use it everywhere. We have ticks everywhere in Nova Scotia, what makes Bedford so special?

Simon Says wrote:

So they can use this product on ticks but those affected with Fire Ants...tough luck?

val wrote:

I am sure that BP said all those words when they built the oil rig too. Just have some common sense and check your body for ticks and wear clothes. Ticks do not come after you. you go to them.

LMacLean wrote:

If it's not approved Nova Scotia should not be using it bottom line!!!! GARLIC!

Duffer wrote:

Dam straight this is a human health issue, it IS a serious disabling and life threatening human health issue that should have been dealt with years 20+ years ago in Nova Scotia. But Noooooooooo rather than deal with this issue to try to protect human (and animals-Pets) lives, This province does everything it can to try to Hide The Truth-INCLUDING, Doctors and Hospitals REFUSING TO TEST People for Lyme Disease and Treat Lyme Disease. \$100 worth of Antibiotic is all it takes to save Humans from a disabling life of misery and even Death from Lyme Disease. Hospitals and Doctors in Nova Scotia & across Canada, NOW dam well better be Testing People for Lyme Disease and properly treating People with Lyme Disease! WHAT are Doctors/Vets & Hospitals doing about Lyme Disease? in Nova Scotia? Testing Humans & Pets and Treating the disease OR using them like Lab animals In Research?

Bed45E wrote:

Why just spray in Admiral Cove Park. These deer move out of the Park in ALL directions and move these ticks as they travel. HRM can't make an educated decision for the common good. ex: Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle, Fire Ants, Blacklegged Ticks, Cats, Chickens, Etc.

karmaqueen wrote:

Pretty scary. Sometimes the cure is worse than the ailment! Is it known what happens to this chemical once it's sprayed? Undoubtedly it leeches into the ground and water... glad I don't live in Bedford!

chuckles wrote:

best as I understood the HRM talking head on CBC evening news the other day when asked why HRM can spray pesticide but residents can't was that the land in question was owned by HRM therefore we can do what we want so I do not see any reason why HRM won't spray..

Phoenix wrote:

Our vet explained that the tick population has exploded in NS this year. We've already found 3 ticks on separate occasions on our dogs. We have them removed at the vet's clinic and have the tick sent away for testing to see if it's a carrier of the lyme disease or not. So far, all have been negative.

Alison Cook wrote:

No need for lawn feeder pesticides when they have aircrafts pouring chemtrails daily :(

Common Sense wrote:

Phoenix, Only three - consider yourself lucky. It seems the fear factor is ruling our lives today. Cheers!

holysmokes wrote:

i grew up in Lunenburg county and we had ticks since time began..i worked in the xmas trees during the 70's and it was quite common to pick off a dozen ticks every night after work.no one i know ever got sick from a tick bite..our family dog and livestock were loaded with ticks,,we kept picking them off so why so much fear in the city?if i lived in halifax ,i would be more concerned about drive by shootings , than a wood tick

XJXC0 wrote:

I really don't see why this is even news worthy myself. Ticks have been around forever. If you properly dress yourself and check yourself after being out in nature, you're fine. There shouldn't be any need to be spraying anything. And if you're worried about your cats, then keep them inside. They shouldn't be roaming around freely anyway. If you want it as a pet, then keep it as a pet. Not as a free-range animal that you occasionally take inside. I live in an area where we are surrounded by woods, constantly go camping/fishing/hiking etc. When I find a tick on myself, I grab a pair of tweezers and carefully remove it from my clothing. Problem solved!

Frank wrote:

Yes sure, on your way to and from work, check your dogs and cats, pick out the ticks, make sure the kids have none on them, and if you miss any and you get Lyme disease what then? Some of us do not even have a family doctor. For heaven's sake, use whatever it takes and get rid of the problem, and the same with the fire-ants, before we have any fatalities.

jimmyboy wrote:

Spraying will be a huge waste of money - it may provide a quick kill of the ticks (and most other insects) but Lyme disease or the ticks will not go away. The organism lives in mammals - not only deer but rodents. The ticks will quickly return and the problem will be back. The surviving ticks will be resistant to the spray and it will not work the next time. The speay is also toxic to cats and probably other animals that live in the parkland. Lyme is here to stay unfortunately.

ticking wrote:

WOW...wish I lived in Bedford right now... I was bit by a tick nearly two years ago, had the bulls-eye rash...tested negative on our infamous ELISA (useless) test...and seen two Dr.s...they were not Lyme Literate Dr.s...and I have had no treatment yet because of the neg. test results...with a bulls-eye rash no further diagnoses needed to be done...now I also have co-infections which will make my long road to recovery much harder...I found a good organization to help me...which I would be otherwise totally lost...Yes, Bedford this must be very hard to ignore with 4 families on one road infected...they spread very quick dont they...we need the testing in Canada to change to something more accurate (so that we dont have to go to the US and spend 10's of thousands of dollars), allow Dr.s to treat us without fear of persecution and fear of losing thier licenses ...because some of them had this and they know...and "DUFFER" you know what's going on... hope the rest of the Province understands the big Lyme controversy going on in Canada right now too!!!

seejay wrote:

Isn't this wonderful, for over thirty years these ticks have been spreading from Yarmouth through the south shore and valley and nobody in the Nova Scotia government seemed to give a dam, now they have hit metro all the alarm bells are going off and it appears the door is open to whatever will work, the joy of living in rural Nova Scotia...

pruin1 wrote:

lol they are ticks! I dont know where people live that they think its a new thing. They come in cycles and some years are worse then others. Sorry but if they are in Bedford then they are everywhere. Do what we have done for centuries...check yourself and your pets when you come in the house. Tick season doesnt last that long and then they will start to die down. I would rather take my chances with a tick than some pesticide that will kill me slowly...not to mention every other living thing in the area. Maybe we should have a tick cull...

Capt_Neumo wrote:

Dragnet insecticide contains more than 35% permethrin - a synthetic neurotoxin. Permethrin kills most insects (ticks, fire ants, et. al.), and is used on dogs and farm animals to prevent/kill fleas and ticks (it is also used in flea collars). However, it is very toxic to and can kill fish and cats. This is why it is heavily regulated in Canada - and many US states.

Anne-Drea wrote:

Just because: "It's approved for a bazillion things up here, and it's used in Canada on a bazillion things up here" doesn't mean: "Common sense and logic would tell you that it's an appropriate use." Use of one product for many different purposes does not equate to "an appropriate use." Please research the many hazards of this product which can translate to thousands of people experiencing a host of serious health concerns. For instance, the Material Safety Data Sheet:
<http://www.cpcofga.com/Files/Labels/Termiticides/DRAGNET%20SFR%2020%20GAL%2010-08.pdf>

k_h wrote:

This is a case where the cure would be worse than the problem. I've pulled close to 20 ticks off of me so far this year and that pales compared to what my friend has pulled off herself and her dogs (I visit the South Shore). I would much rather do that than come into contact with carcinogenic chemicals. The ticks I was finding were not the kind that carry Lyme disease but it takes from 24 to 36 hours for a black legged tick to transit Lyme disease to its host so pull the damn things off--it is no big deal. Even the hype around Lyme disease has been way overblown as only a very small minority get severe symptoms from it--which makes it kind of simliar to peanut butter.

Frank wrote:

Great point seejay, but better late than never.

CAROLANNE wrote:

i am and always will be against the use of pesticides,they cause cancer and other related illnesses,i,d sooner take my chances of contracting lyme,s diseaes rather than the MANY life threatening illnesses caused by pesticides.JUST SAY NO,if you know your neighbourhood is going to be sprayed.

Frank wrote:

Did some of you not read what ticking wrote. I worked around the Valley in the 1970s, there were ticks all right in the western end, Digy and west, but we had never heard of lyme disease at that time. This is a whole new ballgame, time to get priorities straight, we don't give priority to the possible, maybe, side effect that might or might not, show up in 20 or 30 years, we give priority to the very real possibility of a debilitating sickness to-day. Does there have to be a fatality to wake people up, those fire-ants could be deadly if someone who has sensitivities or allergies get bitten, and lyme disease is bad enough.

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