

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

Lawn and garden pesticides address real problems

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DEAR EDITOR,

Re: Pesticide ban needs evidence (Feb. 4). I agree with a recent editorial that Manitobans deserve an informed debate about the proposed Manitoba pesticide ban. However, the editorial reiterated misinformation about the safety of the products used to protect valuable green spaces from insect weed and disease infestations.

Send a Letter to the Editor

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What Manitobans should know is that before any pesticide can be used in Canada, it must first be approved by Health Canada. This process involves a comprehensive set of over 200 tests and a review of all scientifically credible studies that exist to ensure that the product will not cause harm to people, animals or the environment.

Through this process, pesticides receive a greater breadth of scrutiny than any other regulated product, and only those products that meet Health Canada's strict health and safety standards are registered for sale and use.

Manitobans should also know how homeowners in Ontario feel about the ban, now that it has been in place for two years.

In a recent poll of Ontario homeowners, more than half feel the government of Ontario did not do the right thing by implementing a ban and they would rather have the ban scrapped or modified.

The polling also found that many Ontarians are wilfully breaking the law by using pesticides on their lawns and gardens that have been banned or mixing potentially dangerous concoctions on their own.

The fact of the matter is that pesticides used on lawns and gardens are designed as tools to address specific pest problems infesting valuable landscapes -- they are not "cosmetic" at all.

Pesticides help control threats to human health (such as rats and mosquitoes), they protect private and public properties from pest infestations and they help ensure that Canadians have a safe and affordable supply of food, thereby contributing to healthier communities and greater well-being and prosperity.

I encourage Manitobans to visit Health Canada's website to learn more about the safety of these products so they can make a decision on pesticide use in the province based on scientific evidence.

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CropLife Canada

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Find this article at:

http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/lawn-and-garden-pesticides-address-real-problems-139077769.html Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.