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February 15, 2012

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Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

Lawn and garden pesticides address real problems

By: Staff Writer

02/10/2012 1:00 AM

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.

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.

LORNE HEPWORTH

CropLife Canada

Ottawa

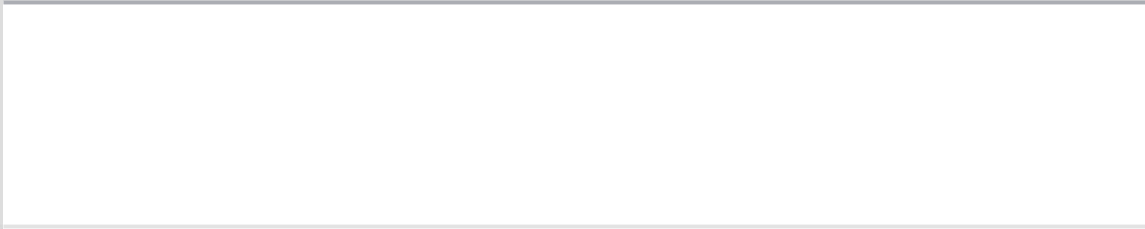
Republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition February 10, 2012 A11

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Norah G Fon



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[Stephen Harper](#)

Score: 1

10:29 AM on 2/10/2012

Intensive agriculture with petroleum-based pesticides is an inefficient means of food production that is slowly killing the human species. GMOs, as can be seen via autopsies of dead insects that pollinate them, are just another poison designed to expediate humanity's demise.

We'll take back our land, farm it right and tell Monsanto and the likes of you to eat your superweeds and go to hell.

1 reply

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[Stuart Kaye](#)

Score: 3

10:51 AM on 2/10/2012

Health Canada and "scientific evidence." A joke!

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[23730947](#)

Score: 0

11:06 AM on 2/10/2012

But 'progressives' and eco-zealots eschew scientific review and understanding. If it's a chemical, it must be bad. These are the ones who also believe we should ban Dihydrogen Monoxide because it kills so many people.

2 replies

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[techie](#)

Score: 0

2:47 PM on 2/10/2012

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I just want my kids to be able to play on my lawn without getting their feet all prickly.



pragmatic

Score: 2

1:24 PM on 2/12/2012

"Lawn and garden pesticides address real problems"

The title summarizes exactly the essence of the regulations in other provinces: use pesticides only when there is a "real problem"; do not use or sell them for cosmetic and non-essential reasons.

This letter is the obvious rebuttal from the lobby group representing the financial interests of the pesticide industry. It is a well-crafted letter set to confuse the public on the real issue which is to limit human --and most importantly children's-- exposure to these toxic chemicals.

No matter how thorough Health Canada is in regulating pesticides, they still recommend to minimize their use.

Health Canada also says that effective pest management for lawns doesn't have to involve pesticide use. The regulator asks us to remember that pesticides give short-term control of lawn pests, but rarely long-lasting solutions (edited excerpt from http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/part/protect-proteger/use-utiliser/_lawn-pelouse/index-eng.php)

Personally, like a majority of Canadians, I do not use nor buy pesticides for cosmetic reasons. By following simple and well documented maintenance practices, I get a lawn that is green and healthy for kids and pets to play on.

In Manitoba, a legislation to ban the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic reasons is not only a necessity, it is overdue.

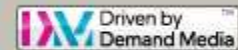


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