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Pesticide-use restrictions also damage sports fields

The Ottawa Citizen August 11, 2012 [Comments \(4\)](#)

Re: [Drought means 'save now, pay later' for city's sporting fields](#), Aug. 9.

If the City of Ottawa thinks re-pairing the sports fields across the city will be tough after the drought, add to the equation the fact that they don't have access to pest control products to protect the turf.

As I'm sure Ottawa residents know, sports fields across the city were already in despair before the drought - littered with weeds and with many suffering from grub damage.

The City of Ottawa must share some of the blame due to its own pesticide-use restrictions imposed some time ago on its sports fields.

But when Ontario's pesticide ban came into effect in 2009, it severely limited the tools that can be used to protect green spaces across the province and now we're starting to see the toll the ban is taking.

Sports fields aren't the only green spaces suffering - homeowners are also frustrated about the condition of their personal property.

A poll of Ontario homeowners shows that more than half feel the Government of Ontario did not do the right thing by implementing a ban; they would rather have the ban scrapped or modified.

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

Without pesticides, fixing the turf from the weed and pest infestations alone will be more costly and less effective.

Now add the impact of the drought and I think it's safe to say repairing Ottawa's fields will cost the city a lot more time and money.

There's no good reason that Ontarians are losing their green spaces to insect and weed infestations, especially since pesticides are federally regulated by Health Canada, who says they can be safely used.

Lorne Hepworth, Ottawa President, CropLife Canada

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Original source article: [Pesticide-use restrictions also damage sports fields](#)

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Norah G Fon Score: 0

2:49 AM on 8/12/2012

Missgoat 78 is part of a group of GHOST-WRITERS who are listed among CANADA'S PROMINENT ANTI-PESTICIDE ACTIVISTS. They have been PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS in the CONSPIRACY TO PROHIBIT pest control products used in the Urban Landscape. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-46L> Their ANTI-PESTICIDE ACTS OF SUBVERSION have EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED the Professional Lawn Care Industry. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-26P> Are we to believe that an assessment from an ANONYMOUS group of Ghost-Writers is somehow worth more than Health Canada ?!?! <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2V6> WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G. <http://pesticidetruths.com/>

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Norah G Fon Score: 0

2:46 AM on 8/12/2012

Dr. Lorne Hepworth is CORRECT. PESTICIDE BANS have DESTROYED public and residential Green Spaces by turning them into GARBAGE DUMPS. Summary of CATASTROPHIC CARNAGE Caused by GARBAGE DUMP GREEN SPACES ● Children at high risk of tripping on weeds and becoming hurt. ● Dandelions the dominant ground cover EVERYWHERE ! ● Dead mature street trees because of uncontrolled pests. ● Invasive noxious weeds like japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. ● Lawns decimated and ruined by pests like white grubs. ● Stuningly expensive pesticide-free maintenance. ● Parks infested with weeds that crowd out grass. ● Rose plantations dying and removed

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by cities. • Swarms of flies are EVERYWHERE ! WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G http://wp.me/P1jq40-44 http://wp.me/P1jq40-26P	
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Name withheld 10:39 PM on 8/11/2012 This comment was left by a user who has been blocked by our staff.	Score: 1
missgoat78 9:31 PM on 8/11/2012 I would like to explain that the \$8 million plus the PMRA receives from the industry for registration of pesticides is an annual payment.	Score: 0 Report Abuse
missgoat78 8:16 PM on 8/11/2012 Lorne Hepworth is President, CropLife Canada, a U.S. based pesticide lobby group. He has a vested interest in being alarmist about the condition of Ottawa's sports fields and lawns. Therefore, I am somewhat dubious about the extent of the alleged loss of green spaces to insect and weed infestations in Ottawa. Also Dr. Hepworth is notorious for singing praises of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), which agency has no labs of its own and depends on industry provided toxicological data for product evaluations. The PMRA is notorious for its weakness in epidemiology. Inconvenient data may be withheld from the PMRA by the industry. Therefore, PMRA's evaluation of pesticides is considered somewhat problematic by independent experts. Incidentally, the PMRA is paid over 8 million dollars by the industry for registration of pesticides.	Score: 1 Report Abuse
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