



The great dandelion debate: Councillors grapple with balance between pesticides and aesthetics

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL, CALGARY HERALD
[More from Annalise Klingbeil, Calgary Herald](#)

Published on: June 7, 2017 | Last Updated: June 7, 2017 4:55 PM MDT



Rosalie Ross, 3, walks through dandelions blooming in a community field in Calgary's Renfrew neighbourhood on Monday May 29, 2017.

For more than a century, a flowering yellow plant has irked Calgarians.

“Every year, without fail, the No. 1 complaint that we get on a yearly basis is dandelions,” Mayor Naheed Nenshi told reporters Wednesday.

“The complaints are almost evenly split between people who say, ‘There are too many dandelions,’ and people who say, ‘Do not spray chemicals on those dandelions, I don’t want my kids playing on that.’ ”

What to do about unsightly fields of yellow was debated at city hall as far back as 1915, according to Chris Manderson, urban conservation lead for Calgary Parks.

“Somebody last year shared with us a clipping from the Calgary Herald from 1915, where (the superintendent) was asked to come to council and tell them what he’s going to do about the dandelion problem,” Manderson said.

A conversation about dandelions and a host of other unsightly weeds continued 112 years later in council chambers on Wednesday as a city committee discussed a report on pesticide toxicity.

Councillors heard from several citizens at Wednesday's meeting, including a 10-year-old boy who urged the city to stop using pesticides so he can play outside without getting sick, and adults who expressed disappointment in a city report short on recommendations.

The report concluded the level of pesticide exposure risk to Calgarians from the city's use of pesticides is acceptable within the current federal and provincial regulations.

"This is a passionate, inflamed debate," said Ward 6 Coun. Richard Pootmans. "It reminds me a little bit of the fluoride debate, actually. The science is challenging for all sides."

Committee chair and Ward 9 Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra said he was amazed at how politicized the topic of pesticide use has become.

"We heard it today from committee. There are people that think you're going to get cancer right now because of this, and people that think this is perfectly safe," he said.

Manderson said finding a balance when it comes to treating weeds across the city is no easy task.

"It is a difficult situation. We have to figure out a way that we can both reduce unsightly weeds but cut back on the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes," he said.



Goats munch on grass in Confluence Park in Calgary last summer as part of a pilot project to control invasive weeds.

Weed control solutions the city is currently trying include goats and insects, which Manderson admitted are “not as sexy as goats,” but are an effective natural control that can keep invasive weeds in check.

Pending a successful change in the city’s land use bylaw, which currently prohibits livestock in most areas, more goats could be coming to city parks down the road to munch on invasive weeds.

“Goats are absolutely part of the solution but they’re not going to solve the whole thing. I don’t see armies of goats in every park and on every boulevard in the city.” Nenshi told reporters.

“I really want to see creative solutions here that both allow us to get rid of unsightly weeds but also allow us to reduce our use of pesticides.”

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3509009/calgary-councillors-to-debate-pesticide-usage-when-toxicity-report-reviewed-wednesday/>

<http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/the-great-dandelion-debate-councillors-grapple-with-balance-between-pesticides-and-aesthetics>

NORAHG Response

ANIMAL WEED CONTROL WILL BE A DISMAL FAILURE IN CALGARY !

Calgary's exploitation of animals for mowing and weed suppression will be a dismal failure ! Goats and sheep will continuously crush grass seed, along with urine and crush, and will destroy surfaces with their hooves. They will destroy Calgary's urban environment and they will represent a serious threat to our children !

The whole truth about ANIMALS can be explored in the following link ...

√ -- Animals Used For Mowing & Weed Suppression -- The Library Of Animal Weed Control Practices --
LINK

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/07/31/animals-used-for-mowing-and-weed-suppression-bogus-green-alternative-2013-07-31/>

CORN GLUTEN MEAL WILL BE A DISMAL FAILURE IN CALGARY !

It will be better for Calgary to do nothing rather than use this product. U.S. university research indicates that corn gluten meal DOES NOT control any

weeds in any trials under any circumstances. There is NO evidence of pre- or post-emergence weed control. It is inconceivable that anyone would recommend this product which possesses such a low level of efficacy. At best, corn gluten meal is a very weak herbicide that may have no use for weed management. Unfortunately, corn gluten meal cannot be taken seriously as a commercial product for use in the professional lawn care industry. Most assuredly, NO government agency would ever in a million years consider registering this type of product for use in the agriculture industry.

For more information about CORN GLUTEN MEAL, and other green alternative pesticides, please explore the following links ...

✓ -- Corn Gluten Meal Herbicide -- Dismal Failure -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/corn-gluten-meal-herbicide-dismal-failure/>

✓ -- Green Alternative Pesticides -- Bogus & Dismal Failures -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/green-alternatives-bogus-dismal-failures/>

Full effective weed control can only be attained **by Calgary** with conventional pest control products, such as 2,4-D and other herbicides, which will provide a very high per cent kill of damaging weeds. 2,4-D has been used for the control of broad-leaved weeds in the urban landscape since 1946. 2,4-D has a 65-year unblemished safety record regarding long-term risk to health. 2,4-D, in combination with other ingredients, is the only safe and effective choice for weed management **in Calgary**.

PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ARE SAFE & EFFECTIVE !

The leading experts confirm that conventional pest control products used in the urban landscape are scientifically-safe and will cause NO harm **in Calgary**. Doctor Keith R Solomon, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Biology at the University of Guelph. Dr Solomon is also Director of the Centre for Toxicology. According to Dr Solomon, pest control products used in the urban landscape degrade rapidly, and DO NOT build up residues during the length of the season. There is NO accumulation of pest control products in the environment. In fact, pests come back fairly quickly, within a few short weeks. For example, 2,4-D Herbicide must be applied at least twice per season, otherwise the weeds come back. The half-life of 2,4-D in soils is a matter of weeks. Another herbicide, glyphosate (a.k.a. Roundup) is no longer biologically active within hours of being sprayed on soil. Pest control products are known to dissipate extremely rapidly.

Overall, there is NO accumulation over time of pest control products, and NO residues to be concerned about.

For more information about DR SOLOMON, go explore the following link ...

✓ -- Dr Solomon -- The Wisdom Of A REAL Expert -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/the-wisdom-of-the-solomons/>

PESTICIDES ARE SAFE !

Overwhelming scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that pest control products are scientifically-safe, and will NOT cause harm to children, adults, animals, or the environment. Pesticide-hating enviro-fanatixcs have shown that they are incapable of processing overwhelming scientific evidence. Should we trust these fanatixcs, who conveniently ignore scientific evidence, and attempt to impose their twisted life-style choices against our society?!?!

✓ -- Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Less Lethal To Humans Than Caffeine -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/03/01/pesticides-are-scientifically-safe-safe-to-use-less-lethal-to-humans-than-caffeine-2014-02-27/>

✓ -- Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Children Are Not At Risk From Pesticides -- Dangerous Playing Surfaces Are Created By #@!!% Pesticide Bans ! -- Exploiting Children As Weapons Of Coercion -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/children-are-not-at-risk/>

✓ -- Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Chemicals Evaluated For Carcinogenic Potential -- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) -- [LINKS](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Force-Of-Nature-Myth-BUSTING-Cancer-2012-11-00-Chemicals-Evaluated-for-Carcinogenic-Potential-EPA-pdf-300-dpi.pdf>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/04/17/chemicals-evaluated-for-carcinogenic-potential-environmental-protection-agency-epa-2012-11-00/>

✓ -- Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Pesticides Are Evaluated As Acceptable For Continued Registration By Health Canada -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/06/25/pesticides-evaluated-as-acceptable-for-continued-registration-by-health-canada-2013-03-31/>

✓ -- Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Real Trends AGAINST Pesticide Bans -- Victories Against Terrxrists -- Our Children Are Safe When Pesticide Bans Are Stopped -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2012/10/11/posters-there-is-a-real-trend-against-pesticide-bans-victories-against-terrorists-our-children-are-safe-when-pesticide-bans-are-stopped-2012-10-11/>

WE SPEAK THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT GREEN ALTERNATIVE PESTICIDES FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE !

We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAHG). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about truth-challenged pesticide-hating fanatѝcs (HUJE) who conspire to destroy businesses that are dependent on the use of safe and effective conventional pest control products. Not surprisingly, enviro-fanatѝcs, like Robin McLeod, have demonstrated that they are incapable of processing overwhelming scientific evidence. Should we trust these fanatѝcs, who conveniently ignore scientific evidence, and attempt to impose their politicized-doctrines and twisted life-style choices against our society !?! We dare to defy the pesticide-hating fanatѝcs by exploring the whole truth from an independent perspective on The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://pesticidetruths.com/> With a Conservative victory in the 2019 Canadian Federal Election, there will be NO NATIONAL PROHIBITION against pest control products. WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

✓ - **Vote For Scheer's Conservatives** <http://wp.me/p1jq40-ahq>

Despite Claims To The Contrary, Overall, There Are NO High, NO Efficacious, NO Economical,
Or NO Low-Risk ALTERNATIVES To Replace Conventional Fertility Control Products



**Green
Alternatives
DO NOT
WORK !**

FORCE OF NATURE | THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE from
National Organization Responding to Abortion (NORAH) that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAH)