

THE NATURE OF THINGS

WITH DAVID SUZUKI

WATCH THURSDAYS AT 8 P.M.

Dad and the Dandelions

Thursday, March 2nd, 2017 At 8 PM On CBC-TV

The Nature Of Things With David Suzuki

Produced By Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

How To Avoid Possible Exposure To Pesticides While Playing Golf

Many golf courses are exempt from provincial bans against using pesticides for cosmetic purposes. But if you love golfing and want to reduce the risk of any potential exposure here are a few tips:

Play on an organic course.

The **Vineyard Golf Club** on Martha's Vineyard, featured in ***Dad and the Dandelions*** and famously visited by former US president Barack Obama sets the standard for industry impact. Kitchen sink detergent and vinegar are used to keep the green playable and microscopic worms are brought in to keep turf-ruining grubs in check. Getting a round in might to be tough because the club is members only and has a waiting list.



SCENE FROM THE FILM: A visit to the Vineyard Golf Club in Martha's Vineyard.

To find environment-friendly courses in Canada, the **Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf** certifies courses that meet certain standards for water use, pesticides and native vegetation. Of the roughly 2,400 golf courses in Canada, just over **80 are certified** with more in progress.



Definitely do not do this!

Find out what pesticides golf courses in your area are using.

In Ontario, all golf courses are now required to report online about pesticide use. Annual reports are available online. **[Click the green button to search](#)** for a registered golf course. The reporting has been mandated since 2009. Director Andrew Nisker checks the site to make an informed decision to play on courses that use less pesticides and are making efforts to reduce them year over year.

In Quebec, golf courses are required to submit pesticide use reduction plans every three years (as of April 2006). And in New Brunswick and PEI, golf courses are generally not subject to restrictions provided they obtain Integrated Pest Management accreditation. Environmentalists are hopeful that these reporting requirements will shed light on usage and encourage a decrease in pesticide use across the country. Generally, public and municipal courses aren't heavy chemical users because they don't have the budget.

Don't golf when the pesticides have been recently applied.

Find out from the golf course superintendent what chemicals were applied and when. Golf courses schedule their applications so there's minimal contact with players.

In some places, there is a requirement for a sign at the clubhouse and at the first tee and the tenth tee notifying the public of the application.



SCENE FROM THE FILM: Andrew interviews Aaron Blair, Scientist Emeritus, National Cancer Institute, Maryland

Avoid direct contact with the greens.

Wear long pants when weather allows, wash your hands and forearms at the end of a round and never play in your bare feet.

Don't move anything from the turf to your mouth. Don't give your golf balls a 'go-faster' link before teeing off.

Find out more about how the industry is working with environmentalists to 'green' their greens.

Responses By **NORAHG FON, Golf-Hating Fanatics, & The Public**

- **Kurt Westergaard**

Just curious as to how much pesticide I would need to ingest that it could actually cause me harm?

- **Norah G Fon**

EPA, Health Canada, and other science-based regulatory agencies have clearly demonstrated that herbicides like 2,4-D are LESS TOXIC THAN Aspirin, baking soda, caffeine, cannabis, nicotine, table salt, and Tylenol. 2,4-D is NO MORE TOXIC THAN ethanol (an edible beverage constituent in beer, wine, and other intoxicating beverages), mouthwash (Listerine), and Vitamin C. 2,4-D are scientifically-safe, practically non-toxic, will cause NO harm, will NOT cause cancer, and will NOT cause irreversible damage if consumed orally. The probable lethal dose for a person ingesting the concentrated form of 2,4-D is ONE LITRE, the volume of an entire milk carton. By comparison, drinking SIX LITRES of water, a fluid that is seemingly harmless, can lead to water poisoning or dilutional hyponatremia, which is a potentially fatal disturbance in brain functions. In essence, water is only FIVE TIMES SAFER than 2,4-D.

- **Norah G Fon**

PESTICIDE-FREE GOLF MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN BOGUS & IMPOSSIBLE !

David Suzuki Is WRONG ! Golf-hating fanatics, like David Suzuki, are falsely-alleging that pesticide-free has become a major trend in the golf industry. There are approximately two thousand golf courses across Canada. There are three, yes THREE, known so-called organic golf courses in Canada. Two of these golf facilities are now bankrupt, closed, and/or gone. One facility may actually be lying about being pesticide-free. Pesticide-free golf maintenance is impossible, and can only lead to catastrophic playing conditions and business failures. These types of courses often DO NOT have high-end playing conditions, which are inadequate for paying players. There will be a lot of unhappy golfers, and bankrupt golf businesses, if the golf industry goes pesticide-free.

<http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

- **Norah G Fon**

VINEYARD IS BOGUS !

The maintenance practices used at the Vineyard Golf Club, in Martha's Vineyard, are seen as a possible template for so-called chem-junkie or chemical-dependent golf courses. This is WRONG ! Vineyard is somehow seen as some kind of environmental pioneer, with many in the golf industry needlessly attempting to learn its (failed) maintenance methods. This is FALSE !

Vineyard serves as a template for inflicting catastrophic employee carnage by converting its professional labour force into a group of mere cotton-pickers ! At Vineyard, there is no longer a need to employ golf course technicians with professional training. All they need to know how to do is bend over and pull. Vineyard has other state-of-the-art pest control practices, such as killing weeds with boiling water and removing moss with kitchen dish detergent. When compared to the use of safe & effective conventional herbicides, NONE of these practices are effective for the control of invasive weeds. Additionally, controlling destructive insect pests, such as white grubs, is virtually impossible.

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Expanded Responses

NORAHG Response

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VINEYARD IS PESTICIDE-FREE BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY INSISTED ON IT ... IN RETURN FOR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS !

In fact, Vineyard serves as a template for feeding profit to coercive & golf-hating residents who own homes adjacent to this golf facility. In case you're wondering, what is the cost of membership at the Vineyard Golf Club !?! There is a membership cost for ordinary golfers, and a special cost for coercive pesticide-hating residents who own homes adjacent to Vineyard. For ordinary golfers, the initiation fee is 350 thousand dollars with annual dues of 12 thousand dollars. Coercive anti-pesticide residents who own homes near Vineyard were given, yes **GIVEN**, millions of dollars in membership benefits, **FOR ALMOST FREE**. This is the price that Vineyard

actually paid to stop pesticide-hating residents from inflicting coercion, intimidation, and terrorism. As a condition of its original construction, 125 pesticide-hating residents used environmental issues as a pretext to get stunningly cheaper initiation fees and annual dues. Profiteering coercive anti-pesticide residents must be accepted as members with NO initiation fee and annual dues of only 725 dollars. Who says being an pesticide-hating fanatic is not profitable?!?!

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