

# Manitoba weeds out cosmetic pesticides in new legislation

The forthcoming pesticide restriction extends to grass around hospitals, schools and daycares

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The Manitoba government has introduced legislation on Tuesday restricting the use of certain chemicals for weed control on lawns.

- [Manitoba cosmetic pesticide ban to start in 2015](#)
- [Manitoba pesticide ban debate reignites](#)

Pesticides would also not be allowed on grass around hospitals, sidewalks, schools and daycares under the new legislation.

Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Gord Mackintosh said Tuesday morning the legislation will help keep children safe.

"Synthetic chemical pesticides pose a risk to human health, especially in the early stages of life," said Mackintosh.

The legislation doesn't ban pesticides outright, but it would require use of pesticides thought to be less potentially harmful.

Pesticide use in the agriculture and forestry industries would not be impacted by the province's new restrictions. The legislation won't extend to gardening; golf courses will not be affected; and the legislation doesn't apply to use of pesticides in the removal of invasive or poisonous weeds either.

The legislation is good news for some, but others argue it will complicate lawn-care for Manitobans.

"It seems like ban or no ban... it just doesn't seem like the smart way to approach this," said Ken Wiebe, co-owner of Eco Green, a lawn-service company with locations in Winnipeg and Brandon.

Wiebe said the alternatives the government will allow for cosmetic weed spraying are more expensive and less effective.

Amanda Kinden is with the Green Action Centre, a Winnipeg non-profit that champions "green solutions" and environmental education. The legislation is being celebrated by environmental activists that have been pushing for pesticide restrictions for some time.

"We are ecstatic," said Kinden. "We are very happy the government is going to take this step and protect Manitoban's health, for sure."

Kinden said that her biggest concerns are related to child and public health issues.

"Our children are the ones rolling around in the grass and they have extremely close contact," said Kinden. "They put their hands in their mouths a lot. Their organs and brains are still developing, so they are really susceptible to these chemicals."

Mackintosh said that there is ample evidence to support the restrictions, but as far as Wiebe is concerned, chemicals his crews have always used are safe. He said the new legislation is out of step with what other regulatory bodies have said about the safety of the soon-to-be-banned pesticides.

"The World Health Organization, Health Canada, the EPA in the United States, they've all recently reviewed these products that are about to be banned and have said they are safe for use," said Wiebe. "So you wonder why they are banning it ... it must be completely political," said Wiebe.

As a result of some of the different rulings on pesticide safety, Wiebe questions the province's rationale on these matters.

"We trust Health Canada for food safety, pharmaceuticals, pesticides... they look after all of that," said Wiebe. "They are the ones that make the instructions on the product that we have to follow. Why the government would choose to not listen to Health Canada is just baffling."

But Kinden and other Manitobans just want their lawns chemical-free, "which is possible," she said.

"There is a lot of pressure that people receive from their neighbours to maintain [lawns], for sure," said Kinden. "But the thing is there are already organic lawn care companies operating in the city."

"And the thing about using the chemicals on the lawns is that you actually kill all things in the soil that help the lawn," said Kinden.

Manitoba is the sixth province to prohibit the cosmetic use of certain pesticides.

The restriction starts in 2015, but will not include spraying golf courses and would not stop someone from buying pesticides outside the province and bringing them back to Manitoba.

Mackintosh said if the province can convince retailers to stop selling synthetic chemicals, that will also reduce their use.

"We know in other jurisdictions it becomes self-enforcing. You know, neighbours talk to neighbours. But as well, we have environmental officers and people can make a complaint down the road. But our effort right now is to focus on getting compliance voluntarily."

## Thank you for voting!

Yes. I want chemical-free lawns. 22.92% (171 votes)

No. I like having my lawn just right. 63.94% (477 votes)

I think the restrictions aren't strong enough. 8.71% (65 votes)

I don't know. 4.42% (33 votes)

Total Votes: 746

## NORAHG RESPONSE

### **DANGEROUS BAN NONSENSE PLACES CHILDREN AT RISK !**

Manitobans had better get used to having their CHILDREN SUFFERING MORE AND MORE INJURIES. With PESTICIDE BANS, Green Spaces become PEST-INFESTED DANGEROUS GARBAGE DUMPS. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g>  
<http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7C4> With PESTICIDE BANS, playing surfaces become THIN AND YELLOW, and OVER-RUN WITH WEEDS and INFESTED WITH INSECTS, resulting in the DISMAL DESTRUCTION OF SAFE TURF PLAYING SURFACES. PESTICIDE BANS cause HAZARDOUS SLIPPING AND TRIPPING CONDITIONS in sports turf, and children become SERIOUSLY HURT. Pest control products PREVENT slipping injuries on sports turf. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2ha> Children need PEST-FREE SPORTS FIELDS to avoid FALLING and HURTING THEMSELVES. It is IMPOSSIBLE for home-owners or professionals to keep their properties beautiful by using so-called Green Alternative Pesticides and Practices. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> Outside of Manitoba, when it comes to PROHIBITION, Government Officials are THINKING TWICE about banning pesticides by looking at the experience of those jurisdictions that have suffered the hardship and STUNNINGLY EXORBITANT COSTS of this #@!!% NONSENSE ! <http://wp.me/P1jq40-43V> WHO CAN AFFORD THIS #@!!% BAN NONSENSE ?!?! In fact, there are REAL TRENDS AGAINST

PROHIBITION. Children NEED PEST-FREE turf to avoid HURTING THEMSELVES. There are dozens of jurisdictions that HAVE KEPT CHILDREN SAFE by STOPPING or RESCINDING or LIMITING Anti-Pesticide PROHIBITION, or by GRANTING Professional Lawn Care businesses with an EXCEPTION STATUS. The TREND AGAINST PROHIBITION has continued again and again. NO ONE WANTS THIS #@!!% DANGEROUS BAN NONSENSE THAT PLACES CHILDREN AT RISK ! The following jurisdiction have KEPT CHILDREN SAFE — Alberta ( Province ), Altona ( Manitoba ), Ashland ( Oregon ), Beaumont ( Alberta ), Belleville ( Ontario ), British Columbia ( Province ), Calgary ( Alberta ), Campbell River ( British Columbia ), Chicago ( Illinois ), Durango ( Colorado ), Edmonton ( Alberta ), Everett ( Washington ), Guelph ( Ontario ), Guelph-Eramosa ( Ontario ), Kamloops ( British Columbia ), Kelowna ( British Columbia ), Merritt ( British Columbia ), New Brunswick ( Province ), Newfoundland & Labrador ( Province ), Ogunquit ( Maine ), Port Alberni ( British Columbia ), Portage La Prairie ( Manitoba ), Quebec ( Prohibition Invalidated When Lawsuit Defeated Ban ), Regina ( Saskatchewan ), Rossland ( British Columbia ), Salmon Arm ( British Columbia ), Scarborough ( Maine ), Saint John's ( Newfoundland & Labrador ), Steinbach ( Manitoba ), Stuartburn ( Manitoba ), Vernon ( British Columbia ), Winkler ( Manitoba ). <http://wp.me/P1jq40-1JO>  
<http://wp.me/p1jq40-6h1> THE TRENDS AGAINST PESTICIDE BANS CONTINUE. MANITOBA CANNOT AFFORD THIS #@!!% NONSENSE ! WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G <http://pesticidetruths.com/>  
<http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>