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Some facts on pesticide use

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JUNE 11, 2012

I would like to add a comment to the column by Coun. Donovan Cavers regarding the use of pesticides in the urban environment ("Pesticide exposure harmful to health").

Cavers has correctly pointed out that when a pesticide application is made to a home:

p Protective clothing is worn, in the form of rubber boots and gloves and coveralls. There is no requirement to wear a breathing apparatus for the application.

p A sign is placed on the property after the application. This has become a standard in the industry, and we should thank the Ministry of Environment for making it so. It is a courtesy appreciated by the customer and neighbors and an opportunity for some good advertising. The neighbours will know who to call to get a lawn as green as the one next door.

p And on the sign, it will say to keep off the lawn until after the spray is dried, which is usually just a few minutes.



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Pesticides available in Canada for landscape and garden uses are biodegradable, safe to use and none are listed as either carcinogens or probable carcinogens by Health Canada or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Pesticides are part of a program to prevent pests and disease in both backyard applications and agriculture. They reduce the use of weed eaters and mowers, thereby reducing fossil fuel consumed by gardeners and municipalities.

If the Department of Highways were to use these chemicals, a single sprayer could replace 10 mowers. If we can use these products on our lawns, why not on the edge of highways?

The product that is most usually targeted is 2,4-D. Aside from controlling dandelions in residential lawns, it is also used in food production. Depending on the point of view, dandelions may or may not be unsightly. The issue with this weed is that it replaces grass, does not withstand foot traffic, and plastic cleats can slip on its surface. With traffic, the weed dies, creating a dangerous hole in the field. The use of pesticides promotes safety, enhances appearance and reduces maintenance. The City of Kelowna has concluded that the loss of pesticides would add \$700,000 to the maintenance cost of their fields.

MLA Bill Bennett, who chaired the special committee on cosmetic pesticides, said the most compelling testimony came from a representative of Health Canada, which approves such products for use across the country. The committee was told that B.C. was the first province to ask Health Canada before considering such a ban, and that imposing one would be a political rather than a public health choice, Bennett said.

Bennett noted that only five per cent of pesticide application is by household users, using products diluted 100 times or more below the level that shows effects in the most sensitive animal species. The widespread belief that common lawn and garden products cause harm when used as directed is based on "chemophobia" and a lack of scientific literacy, Bennett said.

STEVEN. E. BOULTBEE

President, Boulton Vegetation Management

Penticton

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Petosa

He writes "withstand foot traffic, and plastic cleats can slip on its surface. With traffic, the weed dies, creating a dangerous hole in the field." Ha Ha Ha the best joke of the day?

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WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE & NORAH G, WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE A...

PESTICIDE BANS result in CATASTROPHIC CARNAGE caused by BAN FAILURES, BUSINESS FAILURES, GARBAGE DUMP GREEN SPACES,



STUNNINGLY EXORBITANT COSTS, HORRIFIC FINES, and even ILLNESS and DEATH. 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 and Becoming Seriously Hurt
- Dandelions the Dominant Ground Cover
- Dead Mature Street Trees
- Hazardous Slipping Conditions In Sports Turf
- Lawns Decimated by Insects like White Grubs
- Lawns in Entire Neighborhoods Ruined by Pests
- Parks Infested With Weeds
- Rose Plantations Dying and Remove.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-26P>

0 minutes ago in reply to Petosa

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nofabians

Two years ago my daughter blew out her ACL playing soccer at Mac Park because of the weeds (broad leaf plantain) leaving craters when ripped out by cleats. You may want to ask our parks guys why they had to roll and vibrate the now weed free fields....I'd bet they even have injury data from organizations that use the fields.

1 week ago in reply to Petosa 1 Like

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