

Pesticide bans ain't going to fly here

Dear Editor,

Please abandon this idea.

I recently travelled to Ontario, who has banned cosmetic pesticides and observed the disastrous conditions of yards, ditches, sport fields and green spaces where the drought had stopped grass growth and left weeds flourishing. The weeds were going to seed because the mowers had stopped since the grass was so spotty. The sports fields were dangerous as it was so hard with no grass cushion.

While farmers can use pesticides, uncontrolled ditches full of weeds going to seed, really puts the pressure on the farmer who needs to produce food to feed the cities.

While in Ontario, my grandson was suffering from poison ivy and a severe reaction. The "cosmetic" pesticide ban stops parks from controlling poison ivy in campgrounds. Poison ivy, rag weeds (pollen), Canada thistle, milkweeds and Nodding thistle all go unchecked with the "cosmetic" pesticide

ban.

Locally, can you imagine what Crescent Lake will look like when it takes the same appearance as the "duck pond" by the Portage General Hospital when the city cannot treat the weeds.

Why is it that the people that want this ban think they should stop those of us that want to maintain our yards from doing so? We don't try to legislate those people into spraying, fertilizing and watering their lawns so why should they stop us from doing so on our properties.

A small amount of pesticide, which has been approved by Health Canada, for use on crops, judiciously applied can alleviate some of these unhealthy, unsightly situations in advance of fully blown issues.

It is time to speak up; the silent majority shouldn't be ruled by the squawking minority.

Respectfully,

Garry Sloik

Portage la Prairie

