

Urban Use Pesticides

Safe, effective tools for public and private spaces

BC Legislative Committee November 7, 2011



www.croplife.ca

Urban pesticides

Facts:

1. Nobody disputes urban green spaces benefit public health both mental & physical, the environment, and the economy
2. Because these are living systems within changing weather, they are subject to insect, weed and disease pressures, sometimes requiring intervention
3. The real debate is about which tools should be available

Valuable contributions

Our products are valuable tools that contribute to improved human health and a better environment.

Users of our products

- offer healthy foods to Canadians and the world's growing population
- Ensure secure energy transmission and safe rights-of-way
- Protect the environment and human health
- Enhance urban spaces which in turn increase levels of physical activity and community pride

Safety through science

- CropLife Canada believes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the best approach.
- When a pesticide is required, only Health Canada approved products should be used
- No scientific merit for safety distinguishment between “natural” and synthetic pesticides
- Precautionary label language is no basis for bans
- Health Canada bases all pesticide assessments on science – the inherent properties of all chemicals, natural and synthetic, are examined as part of comprehensive risk assessment process

Committed to health and safety

Our industry develops products that are safe and effective and we ensure proper lifecycle stewardship

We support a strong, science-based regulatory system for all pesticides

We encourage responsible use of pesticides for all their uses including:

- urban green spaces, including lawns and gardens
- agriculture/horticulture/forestry/industrial vegetation management
- structural pest control
- golf courses and recreational sports turf
- personal use including insect repellents and pool chemicals

This is not a health debate

- All pesticides must meet the high standard of safety set by Health Canada (reasonable certainty of no harm)
 - This includes an extensive cancer assessment
- Public policy regarding health and safety issues should be based on scientific evidence
- Pesticide restrictions that ignore the scientific evidence that Health Canada and BC Environment regulations utilize may actually jeopardize the health and environment of the very communities they are trying to protect

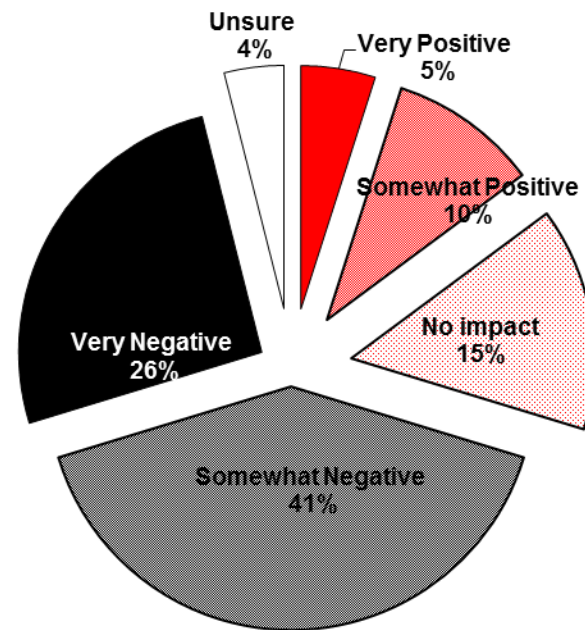
What's been done federally?

- New legislation in 2006
 - Special protections
 - Most transparent process in the world
 - Reading room access
- F/P/T committee on pesticides developed a Healthy Lawns Strategy – designed to inform the public
- Building Public Confidence in the pesticide regulatory process has been a Health Canada priority for many years – undermined by some provinces
- Health Canada prioritized 8 widely used lawn and garden products for re-evaluation starting in 1999 - all are now complete

- Bringing such a ban is bad for economic growth and jobs creation
 - Recent polling in Ontario shows landscape industry has been severely negatively affected
 - Homeowner polling shows many are moving their business to US retailers
 - Our industry is driven by science and innovation – these non-scientific bans are negatively impacting investment and R&D in Canada
 - Regulatory harmonization and modern scientific approaches are the global direction, while some provinces (e.g. Ontario) are going in the opposite direction

Perceived impact of Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban on business

Which of the following best describes the overall impact, if any, that Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban has had on your business?



% of all Landscapers who answered the question (n=192)

After accounting for the margin of error associated with the survey results to this question, we can be 95% certain that:

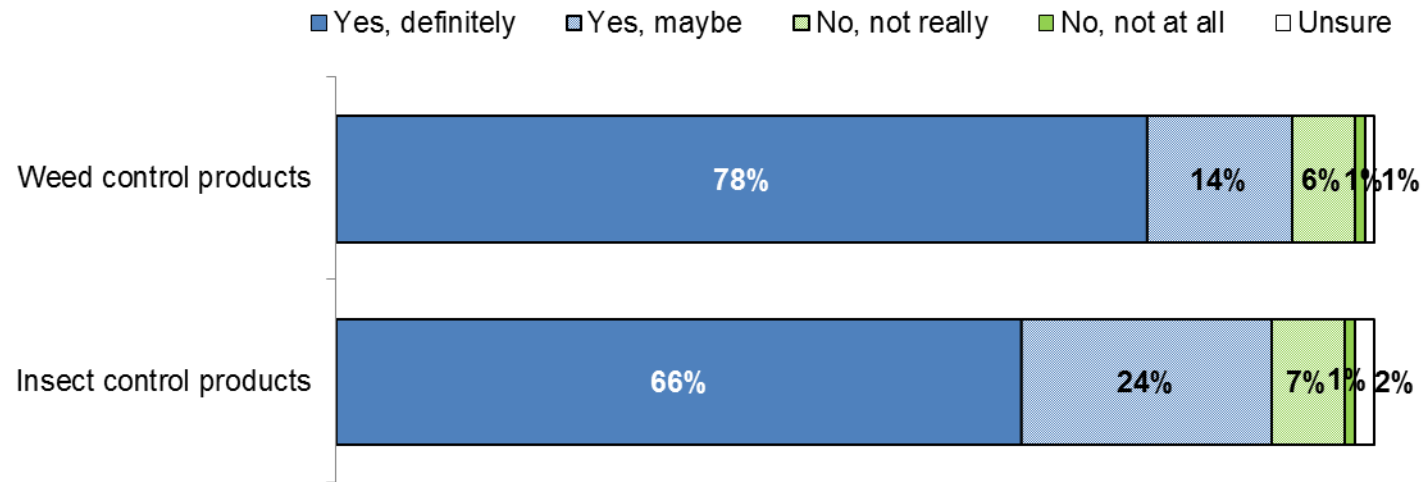
- *Between 10% and 20% of all Ontario landscapers have been positively impacted by the ban,*
- *Between 10% and 20% have experienced no impact, and*
- *Between 60% and 72% of have been negatively impacted.*

Perceived need for more effective weed and insect control products

Homeowners who felt that the approved pesticides available today are not that effective (ratings of 5 or less) were asked if they felt there is a need for new, more effective products. As the following graph shows, most homeowners definitely see a need for more effective weed and insect control products.

Do you feel there is a need for new, more effective weed control products?

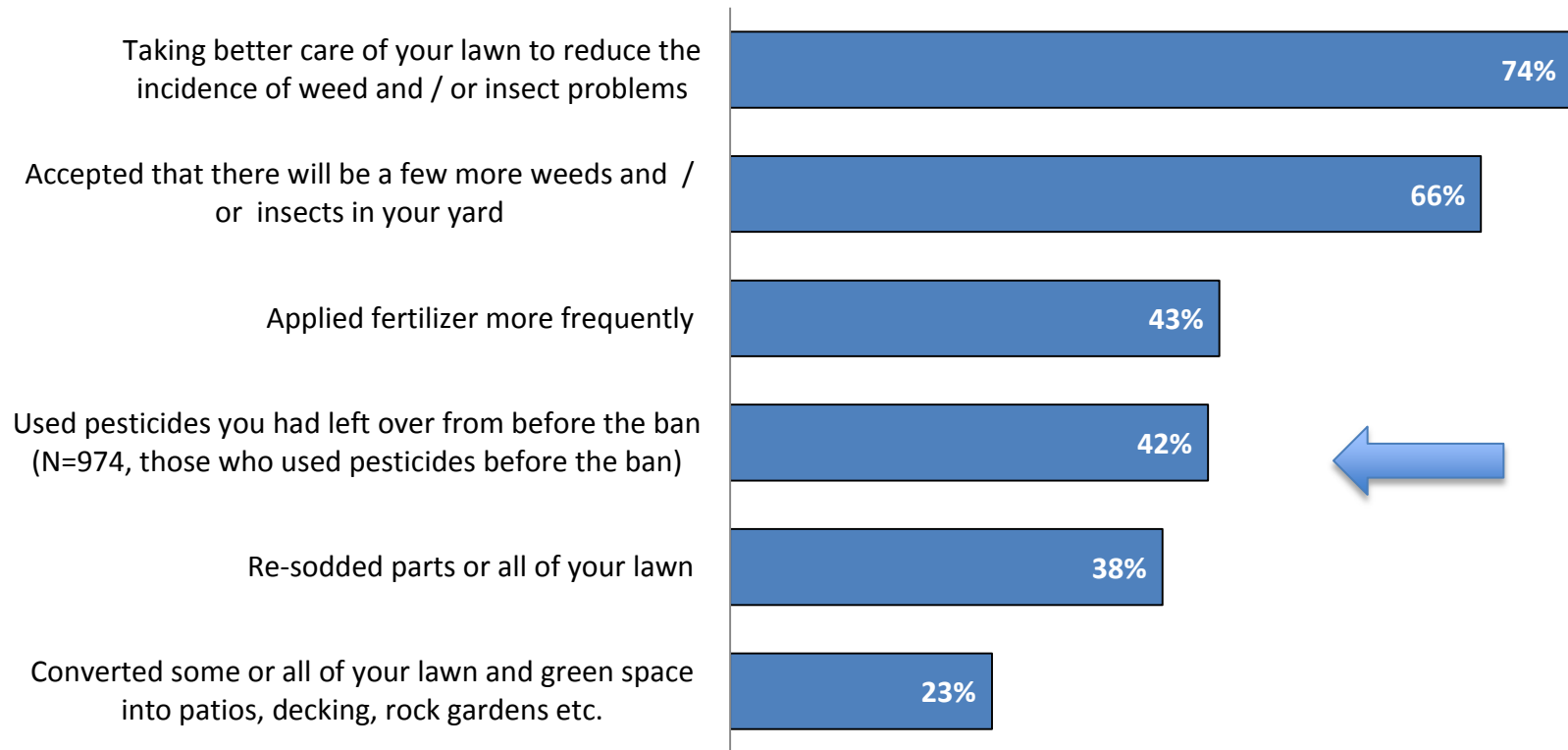
Do you feel there is a need for new, more effective insect control products?



% homeowners who have used pesticides in the past and / or currently use them giving scores of 5 or less for approved pesticide effectiveness
(Weed products n= 649; Insect products n=603)

Executive summary -- Things homeowners have done to their lawns & gardens as a result of the ban

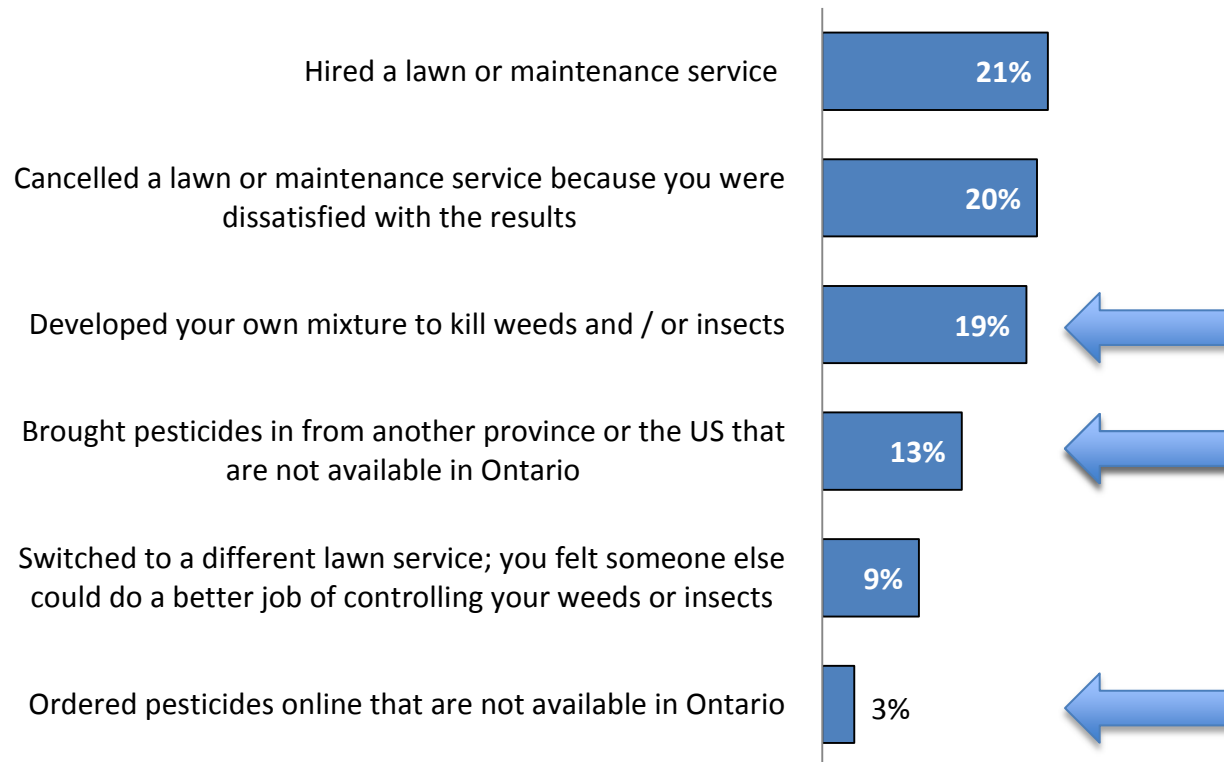
Have you done any of the following regarding your lawn / garden(s) as a result of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban? (Pesticide users, N=1163)



% of homeowners who used conventional pesticides pre-ban and / or currently use approved pesticides (n=1163)

Executive summary -- Things homeowners have done to their lawns & gardens as a result of the ban

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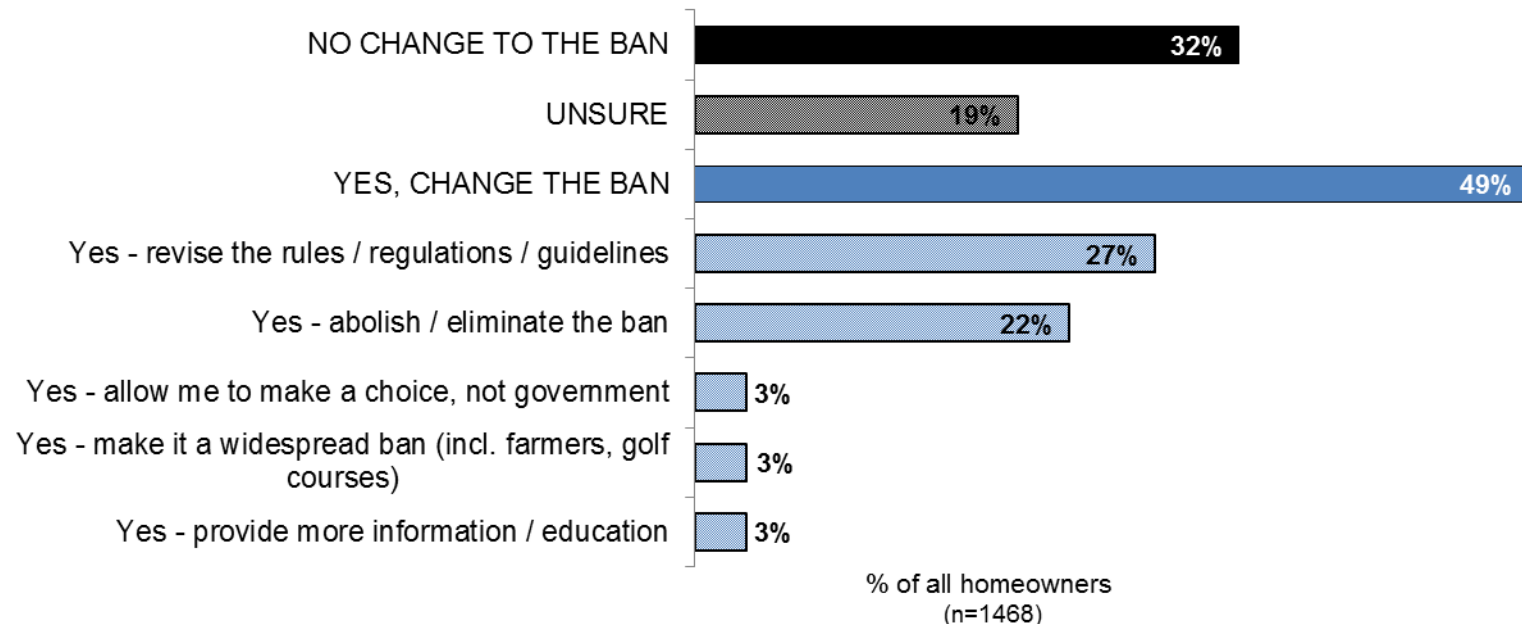
% of homeowners who used conventional pesticides pre-ban and / or currently use approved pesticides (n=1163)

Would homeowners like to see the ban change, and if so, in what ways?

The following graph summarizes the main ways that homeowners would like to see the ban changed.

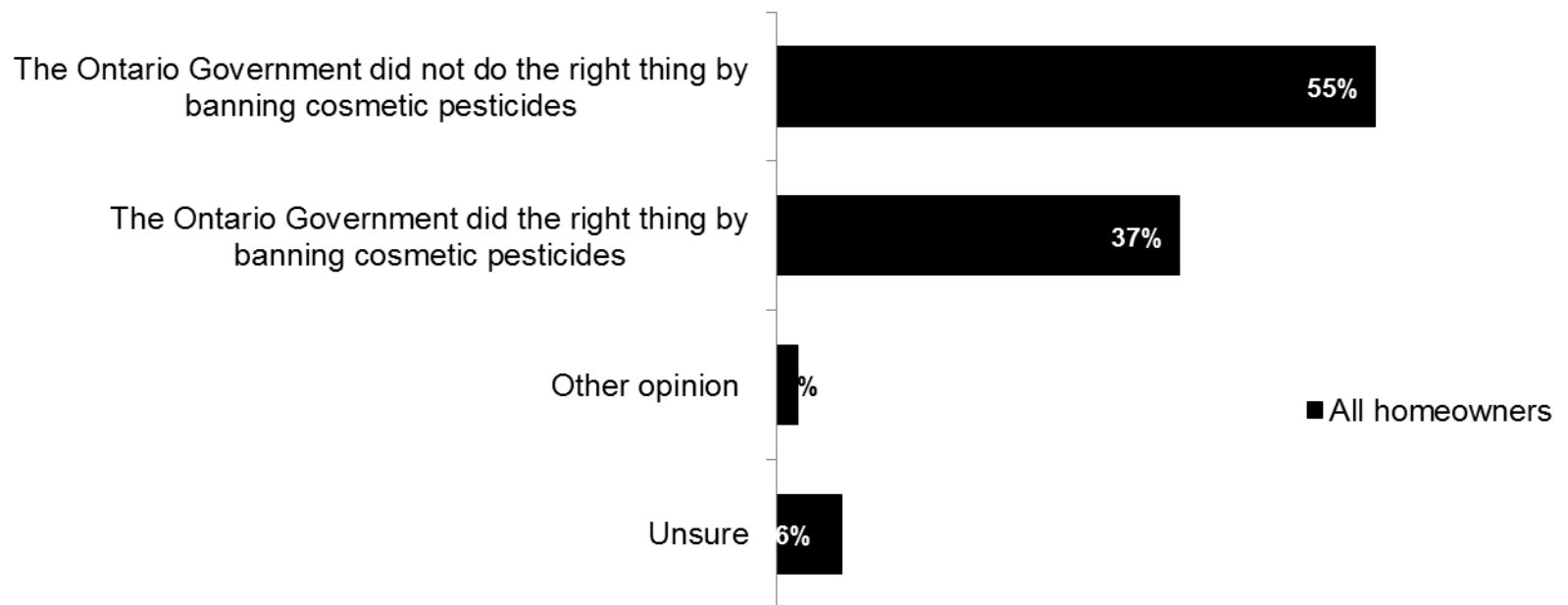
- 49% of homeowners would like to see the ban changed in some way or else completely abolished altogether.

Finally, would you like to see the Ontario Cosmetic Pesticides Ban changed in any way? If yes, in what ways?



Executive summary – Perceptions regarding the Ontario Government banning cosmetic pesticides despite Health Canada’s approval of them

Some people feel that the Ontario Government did the right thing by banning cosmetic pesticides even though Health Canada has approved the banned pesticides as safe for people and the environment, while others feel that if Health Canada has approved the banned pesticides as safe, then they should be allowed in Ontario. Which of the two positions comes closest to how you feel?



(% of homeowners - All homeowners - n=1468)

Summary

- Our industry is science based and innovation focused with extensive regulatory oversight through Health Canada and BC's Ministry of Environment
- Modern protections in place through Health Canada's 2006 PCPA and BC's IPM Act
- Unscientific restrictions of pesticides undermine existing regulatory safeguards, stigmatize all uses of pesticides and create additional unnecessary costs for local governments and school boards, businesses and homeowners
- Negative consequences of bans

Summary

- Utilize Integrated Pest Management systems to reduce pest damage and when necessary, use products that have had their safety assessed and have been approved by Health Canada
- Public education – opportunity to collaborate for a more informed BC public to ensure safe, responsible use