

Pesticide legislation will go to free vote

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Only golf courses will be allowed to use chemicals to fight weeds on lawns. (CBC)

The P.E.I. government introduced legislation Tuesday that would ban more than 240 cosmetic pesticides, and both parties in the house say they will allow a free vote on the bill.

If the legislation passes, a significant number of pesticides will be pulled off store shelves in P.E.I. starting April 1.

"This includes 240 chemicals. One of the big ones of course is 2,4-D. That has been on the table for decades," said Stratford-Kinlock MLA Cynthia Dunsford.

In an unusual move, Opposition leader Olive Crane said she will be allowing a free vote on the bill.

"This is a chance to really demonstrate to the public that we take our role in the legislature very seriously and we're going to have a free vote on this," said Crane.

Premier Robert Ghiz said he would open the vote for backbench Liberal MLAs as well, but he hoped they would support it.

Golf courses exempt

The government stopped short of proposing a complete ban. The controversial 2,4-D would still be allowed on golf courses, but Environment Minister Richard Brown says even that will eventually be phased out.

"We're allowing it on golf courses because it's a major industry for P.E.I. and we're working towards getting off it," said Brown.

"What we're basically saying is you better find a way to get off it over the next couple of years."

The proposed legislation doesn't say how close a golf course can spray next to someone's residential property, but Brown said golf courses will have to present the department with a buffer-zone plan before being allowed to spray.

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Stevenson93 wrote: Posted 2009/12/02

at 2:45 PM ET It's about time that this is coming into effect. One more step to being greener!

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Silent Do Gooder wrote: Posted 2009/12/02

at 12:42 PM ET I have a suggestion, let's take a water sample from every school fountain on P.E.I. and have it tested by an independent lab and find what truly is in the water our most precious members of our family are ingesting.

Then we can cross reference this information with independent research done by independent scientists in Europe and other countries that do not have an affiliation with Monsanto and other chemical companies they control.

The results from this report will allow for all Islanders to make an informed decision on this important issue.

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Tomcat999 wrote: Posted 2009/12/02

at 9:11 AM ET The stupidest thing here was that RETAILERS were forced to spend thousands of dollars on staff training and secure cages for these products for the last 4 years. The retailers had to be trained on the proper usage of these products and had to physically dispense these chemicals to their customers. **BUT you didn't need a license to BUY it or USE it! A 7 year old could go on in to a store, buy gallons of 2-4-D and use it- or drink it or whatever. What's wrong with this picture. Typical (PEI) government backward logic. If anything- MAKE THE DOMESTIC USERS TAKE A LICENSE AND have him or her present a licence to retailers to purchase these chemicals. Then it possibly would be used correctly.

Regular industry and lawncare companies must be trained and properly licensed to dispense this stuff. If it's safe enough to be used commercially then it should be safe to be used domestically if used PROPERLY.

There will be a black market for Killex now. I can just see it-

" Three Killex dealers caught in 2-4-D sting. 12 cases seized with a street value of \$2,000 dollars if purchased at Walmart"

Oh- But wait- They'll get off that too- just like ALL dealers do here anyway! What a joke.

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Haggis 03 wrote: Posted 2009/12/02

at 7:50 AM ET Good.

Hopefully the next free vote will be on a complete ban of all cosmetic pesticides and any other forms of pollution that could affect or drinking water, our air and our health.

Of course if these laws are not enforced it was only an exercise in futility.

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