



Myth: Real trees are dangerous because of pesticides Fact: As with any agricultural product, chemicals may be used on real trees, according to the National Christmas Tree Association. However, this is not always the case. If you're particularly worried about chemicals on your Christmas tree, look into your local chemical regulations for farms, or ask the tree farmer what they regularly use on their crop.

Photograph by: File, Goole Image

Support for a complete ban on lawn and garden pesticides is growing across political lines in B.C., according to a new survey prepared for the Canadian Cancer Society.

The survey polled residents in the Port Moody-Coquitlam byelection riding, and shows support for the ban of 71, 70 and 69 per cent respectively among NDP-, Liberal- and Conservative-leaning voters.

"For the first time in B.C. there is all-party support for a ban," said Gideon Forman, executive director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. "Such a consensus across political lines is rare. It's an interesting social phenomenon."

With the widespread support, the association, along with the Canadian Cancer Society, is hoping the provincial government will introduce tough new regulations that would include a ban on sales of pesticides for cosmetic use.

Although 39 B.C. municipalities have pesticide bans in place, Forman said unless the products are off the shelf, it's hard to get compliance.

"What we've seen in other places is that voluntary measures just don't work."

Kathryn Seely, director of public issues for the Canadian Cancer Society, said her organization has long advocated for a provincewide ban on cosmetic pesticide use. "Two-thirds of Metro Vancouver residents and 76 per cent of families with children support the ban," she said.

The Canadian Cancer Society has reported links between childhood and adult cancers and neurological disorders and exposure to pesticides.

"Our position is that the ban would include parks and playgrounds," said Seely.

Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes provinces all have bans on the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

Forman said a substance known as 2, 4-D is the most common agent used to kill weeds in lawns and has been known to affect human health. "Science shows that it's connected with cancer, reproductive problems, birth defects, Parkinson's disease," he said.


Although the suggested ban would not extend to commercial use in areas such as BC Hydro right-of-ways and around power stations, it could bring a significant drop in the presence of over 250 chemicals in the environment, added Forman.

"Although children are most vulnerable, if we reduce these exposures even as adults it's very beneficial."

He noted one year after Ontario enacted a ban on cosmetic pesticide use in 2009, concentrations of 2, 4-D, dicamba, MCPP, phenoxy herbicides and total insecticides were down significantly in stream water — by as much as 94 to 97 per cent in some streams.

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<p>Norah G Fon Score: 0</p> <p>10:04 PM on 4/8/2012</p> <p>HIRED GUN LOBBYISTS Seely and Forman are WRONG.</p> <p>The ONLY people who want Anti-Pesticide PROHIBITION in British Columbia (B.C.) are a SMALL GROUP of HIRED GUNS LOBBYISTS like Seely and Forman with VESTED INTERESTS defended by the IMAGINARY DANGER of pest control products.</p> <p>Kathryn Seely and Gideon Forman ... Get Off Our grASS</p> <p>For more information, go to the following links ...</p> <p>http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Force-Of-Nature-Letter-to-the-Editor-2012-04-05-Seely-Forman-CCS-NO-Support-Conspiracy-Secret-Evidence-RESPONSE-pdf.pdf</p> <p>Everyone should COMPLAIN about Canadian Cancer Society by contacting business, fund-raising, government, and taxation agencies !</p> <p>To COMPLAIN about Canadian Cancer Society, go to ...</p> <p>http://wp.me/P1jq40-1PE</p> <p>WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G</p> <p>NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green space industry.</p> <p>http://pesticidetruths.com/</p> <p> Delete</p>	<p> </p> <p> </p> <p>Report Abuse</p>	
<p>Name withheld Score: 0</p> <p>7:52 AM on 4/6/2012</p> <p><i>This comment was left by a user who has been blocked by our staff.</i></p>		
<p>anonymous Score: 0</p> <p>7:40 AM on 4/6/2012</p> <p>Nice try "censorship police".....</p> <p>This whole "non-issue" is such a load of B.S! Since farmers are exempt from any bylaws involving this issue I will continue to purchase my weed killer through a farmer friend of mine. There are already to many laws rules and regulations turning all of us into criminals. A pesticide ban isn't going to save Christy's butt come the next election.</p>	<p> </p> <p> </p> <p>Report Abuse</p>	
<p>Hawkman Score: 0</p> <p>12:01 PM on 4/5/2012</p> <p>While the Canadian Cancer Society claims that the most common herbicides are linked to cancer, it has not produced even 1 credible study that establishes that. That is because there are no such studies. The most common pesticides, Roundup and 2,4-D, have been intensively studied for decades and have been found to have no links to causing cancer.</p> <p>The Canadian Cancer Society is carrying out a purely political campaign and is misleading the public. Shameful.</p>	<p> </p> <p> </p> <p>Report Abuse</p>	
<p>Name withheld Score: 1</p> <p>9:25 AM on 4/5/2012</p> <p><i>This comment was left by a user who has been blocked by our staff.</i></p>		
<p>Name withheld Score: 1</p> <p>4:36 AM on 4/5/2012</p> <p><i>This comment was left by a user who has been blocked by our staff.</i></p>		
<p>Peter Freemantle Score: -3</p> <p>11:37 PM on 4/4/2012</p> <p>It's incredible that it was ever legal to dump highly toxic chemicals on gardens where animals and children play. Cats, for example, chew grass and would easily ingest the toxin. I am surprised that more people don't sue neighbours who have such a selfish disregard for the wellbeing of others.</p> <p>In any case, lawns look much better when they have wild flowers in them.</p>	<p> </p> <p> </p> <p>Report Abuse</p>	
<p>marionetta Score: 2</p> <p>10:38 PM on 4/4/2012</p> <p>Herbicides kills weeds.</p> <p>Pesticides kill bugs.</p> <p>Geesh.</p>	<p> </p> <p> </p> <p>Report Abuse</p>	