

Letters to the editor - Calgary Herald. Sunday April 3 2011

Re: "Green thumb," Editorial, March 31.

Your editorial is exactly right when it says citizens' health is negatively affected by policies that pump poison into the air and groundwater.

One such policy is allowing continued use of lawn and garden pesticides. These poisons — there's no other word for them — are linked to cancer, birth defects and neurological illnesses such as Parkinson's. And they're wholly unnecessary: homeowners can keep their land beautiful using non-toxic methods.

Calgary should follow the lead of other major Canadian cities and phase out toxic lawn products, both on public and private property. This is the only way to protect drinking water, family pets and, most important, children.

Gideon Forman, Toronto Gideon Forman is executive director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.