



South Vancouver residents up in arms over hungry, messy aphids



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[More from Matt Robinson](#)

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A resident of East 46th Avenue in Vancouver washes her car Wednesday to remove the sticky coating from being parked under a linden tree. The coating is caused by aphids in the trees.

Residents in one South Vancouver neighbourhood are fed-up with the smelly, sticky substance that drips from their streets' trees, and some are stinking mad that the city hasn't ended the problem.

Staff say they're doing everything they can to combat the source of the mess, but it's a losing battle they may be unable to win without simply chopping the trees down.

To get a sense of the issue, here's how Joe Coll describes the smell of the dripping substance: "An unholy mixture of rotting garbage, rancid wine, honey and semen."

The problem originates with linden trees — or more specifically, the aphids that are attracted to them. During the summer, those aphids secrete honeydew — a sugary sap — as they feed and reproduce on the linden trees, according to the park board.

The substance is thick and plasters leaves as well as cars, roadways, lawns and sidewalks below. It squelches under a person's rising foot, attracts wasps and at 46th Avenue near Fraser Street, it comes down so heavily that you can see it dripping in the sunlight, Coll said.

The problem lasts months at a time, and while it's not the worst thing that could happen, "it is a major inconvenience," Coll said.

"You get out of your car and sometimes you have it dripping on you and you take the dog for a walk and you look at their paws when they come inside and it's caked with the stuff," he said. "It's gross, really."

Coll is asking city staff to do something — spray the trees with pesticide, release swarms of ladybugs or thin and replace some of the trees with other varieties to reduce their attractiveness to aphids. In fairness, that's pretty much what the city has been doing, as Amit Gandha, a city arborist, explained.

Staff begin by counting the aphids on leaves to find out whether the trees on a given block are infested. If they are, the block will be scheduled for spraying with an insecticidal soap. Incidentally, Coll's block is on that schedule, and Gandha recognized it by name.

The spray chokes the pests and brings their population down, but the trouble is that aphids reproduce regularly and "just when you've done that, there's more," Gandha said.

Another control method is to release "biological-control agents," which in simple terms refer to predatory insects. The city has tried that, too.

"Certain ones we would not release are wasps, because that starts to have other issues like public safety. But ladybugs, we've used them many times. They just don't seem to be able to keep up."



Joe Coll stands under the sticky linden trees in the 500-block East 46th Avenue in Vancouver on Wednesday. The sticky coating is caused by aphids.

There is another option available after staff have tried everything they could — get rid of the trees.

Nearly 10,000 linden trees were planted in Vancouver in the 1980s and '90s, according to the park board. Since then, about 1,200 of them have been replaced, according to the board. Gandha explained that it takes a bigger conversation involving staff and neighbours before a linden tree can be replaced.

Coll isn't alone on his street in finding fault with the sticky trees.

Nearby resident Ken Mah said he won't park in front of his home in hot weather when the trees are dripping. If he did, he'd have to wash his car every day. Mah has lived on the street for decades — as have many of his neighbours — and he recalled that the large linden tree in front of his home had been planted just over 20 years ago.

"They grow like crazy," he said, noting that the branches hung low to the sidewalk and the leaves were dense enough to block a nearby street light from view.

Mah said he'd like to see the trees replaced with cherry trees as appear on many streets in the city.

Across the street, Mah's neighbour, Jim Eakin, was loading his vehicle. He was parked in an ideal spot — below a variety of tree that didn't attract aphids. He said he likes the linden trees, but not the sticky mess. When asked if he'd prefer the trees were gone, he said it would be nice to have something that wasn't infested, but that he didn't really feel like they should "clearcut the neighbourhood."

For anyone interested in tackling aphids themselves, former Vancouver Sun gardening columnist Steve Whysall had two suggestions: hit them with a heavy stream of water or try to attract predators like ladybugs, lacewings, aphid parasites and aphid midges.

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<http://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/south-vancouver-residents-up-in-arms-over-hungry-messy-aphids>

NORAHG Response

NO ONE IN SOUTH VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WANTS TO LIVE IN #@!!% DANGEROUS & PEST-INFESTED URBAN LANDSCAPES THAT LOOK LIKE GARBAGE DUMPS !

All prohibitions have created catastrophic ecological carnage of uncontrolled, invasive, and destructive pests ! Without conventional pest control products, green spaces & hard-landscapes have become pest-infested and dangerous garbage dumps because it is impossible to control invasive weeds and destructive insects by using so-called green alternative pesticides & practices.

Outside of **South Vancouver**, in Ontario, the reckless and arbitrary imposition of fanatical-prohibition since 2009 has proven NOT in the best interest of health and environment. Sadly, Ontario's prohibition has created catastrophic ecological pest carnage. No one, either in Ontario or in **South Vancouver**, wants to live in #@!!% dangerous and pest-infested urban landscapes that look like garbage dumps !

For over a decade, observers have predicted with certainty that any prohibition will inflict catastrophic ecological pest carnage. Here is what the residents of **South Vancouver** can expect, forever ...

- mature street trees will perish because of uncontrolled insect destruction
- municipal &

residential properties will be ruined by uncontrolled weed invasion & insect destruction • weeds will invade lawns, and dandelions will become the dominant ground cover • lawns will be decimated by destructive insects like White Grubs • playing surfaces will become hazardous to children who are at high risk of tripping and becoming seriously hurt • infra-structures will be damaged by invasive noxious plants like Japanese Knotweed & Giant Hogweed • rose plantations will die.

It is a recognized fact that prohibition is unnecessary since pest control products are scientifically-safe, practically-non-toxic, and will cause NO harm.

FACTS ABOUT PESTICIDE BANS CREATING GARBAGE DUMP GREEN SPACES !

✓ **FACT** -- Anti-Pesticide Prohibition Has Destroyed Public & Residential Green Spaces By Turning Them Into Garbage Dumps -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/carnage-leading-to-garbage-dumps/>

✓ **FACT** -- Prohibitions Has Created Catastrophic Ecological Carnage Of Uncontrolled, Invasive, & Destructive Pests In British Columbia -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2017/02/09/municipal-prohibition-failures-in-british-columbia-part-3-of-12-reasons-for-failures-catastrophic-carnage-false-facts-2017-02-09/>

✓ **FACT** -- Pesticide Bans Have Never Made Our Green Spaces Look So #@!!% Ugly -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/carnage-leading-to-garbage-dump-green-spaces-photo-gallery/>

✓ **FACT** -- Ontario Cannot Protect Its Ash Trees -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/01/19/emerald-ash-borer-wisconsin-municipalities-safe-effective-insecticide-treatments-versus-chain-saws-2014-01-05/>

✓ **FACT** -- Pesticides Are Less Lethal To Humans Than Caffeine -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/03/01/pesticides-are-scientifically-safe-safe-to-use-less-lethal-to-humans-than-caffeine-2014-02-27/>

✓ **FACT** -- Children Are Not At Risk From Pesticides -- Dangerous Playing Surfaces Are Created By #@!!% Pesticide Bans -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/children-are-not-at-risk/>

✓ **FACT** -- Pesticides Are Evaluated As Acceptable For Continued Registration By Health Canada -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/06/25/pesticides-evaluated-as-acceptable-for-continued-registration-by-health-canada-2013-03-31/>

√ **FACT** -- The Are Real Trends AGAINST Pesticide Bans -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2012/10/11/posters-there-is-a-real-trend-against-pesticide-bans-victories-against-terrorists-our-children-are-safe-when-pesticide-bans-are-stopped-2012-10-11/>

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NORAHG is the sworn enemy of lying, pompous, smug, uneducated, & pesticide-hating enviro-fanatics. Overwhelming scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that pest control products are scientifically-safe, and will not cause harm to children, adults, animals, or the environment. We dare to defy the pesticide-hating fanatics by exploring the whole truth from an independent perspective on The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ...

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