

# Kelowna's New Pesticide Bylaw

**P**esticides don't just kill pests. Birds, bees and other beneficial creatures are also affected. And speaking of birds and bees, some studies even suggest a link between pesticide use and human health. Kelowna's pesticide bylaw regulates the use of pesticides for non-essential purposes.

## What are pesticides?

Pesticides are chemical products used to control unwanted weeds, insects and other organisms and include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides. Pesticides also include weed and feed type products.

## Are there any exceptions to the bylaw?

Yes. The bylaw refers to residential properties only and certified pesticide applicators will still be allowed to use pesticides (although a notice of pesticide use must be posted). The bylaw does not apply to pesticides used to manage pests that transmit human diseases or for the control of noxious weeds or insects. Dormant oils, soaps and vinegar are exempt, as are natural lawn and garden care products (such as nematodes and corn gluten meal).

## How can I prepare for the bylaw?

See reverse for tips to grow great grass without pesticides.

## How can I learn more?

To see the entire bylaw, visit [www.kelowna.ca](http://www.kelowna.ca) under "Residents/Environment/Pesticides" or call 250 469-8982.



**If we don't stop using pesticides, how are we going to teach our kids about the birds and bees?**



**Be Pesticide Free**



## The problem with pesticides

The key to pest management is a healthy lawn. Many people think pesticides help make their lawn healthier, when in fact, the opposite is often true. In addition to being harmful to human health and the environment, pesticides often kill beneficial organisms, resulting in a lawn that is pesticide dependent as opposed to naturally healthy.

## Naturally healthy

Healthy lawns are naturally resistant to pests and shouldn't require more than some occasional hand pulling of weeds or the targeted use of natural pest management products such as mineral oil or insecticidal soaps. With some patience and a few relatively simple steps you can easily make the switch to natural lawn care.



## Building a healthy, natural lawn

The most important things you can do are:

- Mow high (6-8 cm) and often
- Keep mower blades sharp and leave grass clippings on your lawn
- Water your lawn deeply but infrequently
- Fertilize using a light application of organic fertilizer

Try these additional tips to take your lawn to the next level:

- Top dress annually with 0.5 to 1 cm of good quality compost on top of your lawn
- Overseed over your existing lawn around mid-April or mid-September by spreading grass seeds recommended for your area
- Aerate in spring or fall to help your lawn breathe

If you think you have any of the following problems, it's best to call a professional:

- Thatch
- Dew worms
- Crane fly insects
- Snow mold and red thread disease

Remember, it's important to correctly identify pest problems first and then look for natural pest management solutions.

You can learn more about these and other natural lawn care tips at [www.kelowna.ca](http://www.kelowna.ca) Look under "Residents/Environment/Pesticides."



# Going Natural

Tips for growing a pesticide free lawn

