



Statements from the Environmental Movement. Part 6.

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On **February 10th, 2009**, the « *City of Salmon Arm* », in British Columbia, adopted a by-law that will prohibit « *cosmetic pesticides* » for private lands as of **March 1st, 2010**. One councillor has stated ...

<< I don't want this stuff used in Salmon Arm. I don't like it. >>

The public is being led to believe that conventional herbicides are nefarious, and the alternatives are so much better.

For example, « *Salmon Arm* » has issued a brochure « *Eleven Easy Steps to a Pesticide-Free Yard* ». Here are some interesting excerpts. —

☒ **<< [For dandelions] dig out the entire root. >> TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE.** There will always remain even the smallest root fragment to re-grow.

☒ **<< A pesticide-free lawn will encourage earthworms. >> MISLEADING.** Conventional lawn care products WILL NOT affect earthworm populations.

☒ **<< A thick lawn will crowd out weeds. >> INCORRECT.** Once weeds are established, they WILL NOT leave, except with the use of herbicide.

☒ **<< Applying [acetic acid] gradually eliminates dandelions by weakening the roots. >> INCORRECT.** Dandelions will return over and over again. Acetic acid will need to be applied SEVERAL TIMES to obtain some weed control, whereas a conventional herbicide will need to be applied only once or twice per year. Moreover, acetic acid is a danger to ALL vegetation since it will DESTROY desirable turf as well as weeds. It also represents a danger to people because it is a SKIN IRRITANT, and it is CORROSIVE to the eyes. Therefore, this product may be deemed as a DUBIOUS lower-risk green alternative to conventional turf herbicides.

☒ **<< Healthy lawns [...] will out-compete weeds. >> INCORRECT.** Healthy lawns will SUPPRESS some weeds, but herbicides are still needed.

☒ **<< Mow high to discourage weeds. >> Mowing high will only SUPPRESS weed invasion, and herbicide will still be necessary for CONTROL.**

☒ **<< Pour boiling water on weeds. >> DANGEROUS.** This suggestion represents a danger to the person carrying and applying boiling water.

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We wish to
thank « *Force
of Nature* »
without whose
assistance this
report would
not have been
possible.