



# The Sherbrooke Times

## NOT ALLOWED ON THE GRASS

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Ten companies have been fined by Health Canada for applied banned pesticides on lawns, private.

### **Pesticides are still allowed in agricultural areas, even if 10 companies that have applied to lawns are fined.**

The two products in question are chlorpyrifos and diazinon, two of the most powerful insecticides capable of destroying ants, spiders or bed bugs the most resistant. Considered hazardous to health, they are prohibited for residential use since 2003 and 2005.

*“It is the old chemistry. It is very effective, but the level of risk to the health, it is considered that this is not acceptable”,* says Pierre-Olivier Duval, of the compliance program of Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

### **Least expensive**

The two products are dangerous poisons known to disrupt the nervous system in humans and animal species. They are especially harmful for young children, whose nervous system is in full development. [ ?!?! ]

A team of inspectors were sent to investigate 10 businesses that maintain home lawns in Mirabel, Saint Eustache and Saint Jerome, in particular.

Very effective, these products are less expensive than those allowed in the residential sector, according to M Duval.

They are attractive to companies looking to reduce their costs and ensure good results, explains the expert. The maintenance of the lawns, *“it is a highly competitive industry,”* he said. Customers are demanding. “

## Easy access

This is not an excuse to derogate from the rule, growls Philippe Caissie, technical director of Weed Man lawn care. One of the franchisees of his company, Weed Man Laurentides-Lanaudière, had to pay \$ 4,000 in fines to Health Canada.

*“This is not a common practice,”* says Mr Caissie. And *“this is not something that has been done at a large scale,”* he insists.

It remains that the chlorpyrifos and diazinon are not rare contraband. Although withdrawn from the residential market, they remain easy to access, since they are both allowed and commonly used in the agricultural sector.

## Fields

Called upon to justify this two-tiered regulation for chlorpyrifos and diazinon, Mr Duval explains that, in agriculture, the rules are very strict.

*“In agriculture, no one walks not on four legs, like a child might do on a lawn. There is a re-entry period between the application and harvest, to protect health “,* explains the expert from Health Canada.

This does not, however, prevent the pesticides used in agriculture to contaminate the environment, and thus, have an indirect impact on human and animal health, according to environmentalists. [ ?!?! ]

In March 2017, of the analyses carried out for Equiterre, the presence of the pesticide atrazine was found in the drinking water of Montreal. Although authorized by Health Canada, this product is known to prevent the normal development of a fetus in pregnant women who are exposed to them.

Of green lawns and green

Achieving a manicured lawn without toxic chemicals is now perfectly possible, ensure the specialists in horticulture. [ ?!?! ]

*“Pesticides should be used as a last resort and it is possible to have a beautiful lawn like that,”* says Melanie Langlais, of the Association Des Services En Horticulture Ornementale Du Quebec ( ASHOQ ).

Langlais explained that with good soil aeration, by leaving the clippings after mowing, picking the weeds and reseeding the damaged areas, excellent results are obtained. [ ?!?! ]

*“A healthy lawn can withstand the presence of a number of pests without too many drawbacks. So, please, be tolerant, help only when pests and diseases have really put the health of the lawn at risk “.* [ ?!?! ]

## Biopesticides

If the lawn is healthy, *“predators and parasites that attack the enemies of the plants will have time to put in the work without you having to intervene,”* says the organization in its guide for ecological lawn care. [ ?!?! ]

But if the infestation of weeds or insects is really out of control, we find more and more of low-impact pesticides and biopesticides on the market. Unfortunately, they are still more expensive than their competitors, toxic, says Langlais.

He is, however, convinced that the growing demand for these products will drive prices down. [ ?!?! ]

*“There are more and more municipalities, including Montreal, which prohibit the use of pesticides, so people have no other choice than to adapt “,* she said.

## Two poisons

- The **chlorpyrifos** and **diazinon** are two insecticides of the family of organophosphates. Both interrupt the transmission of nerve impulses.
- Researchers have shown a link between **prenatal exposure** to chlorpyrifos and neurodevelopmental effects in children exposed in utero.
- Signs of toxicity : **tremors, convulsions, salivation, and dyspnea.**

Source : Sage pesticides

## The 10 companies sanctioned

Allaire Et Fils Enr ( Allaire & Sons )  
La Prairie, Quebec ( Montreal South Shore )  
allaire.fils@bellnet.ca

Entretien De Pelouse Plus Inc ( Lawn Care Plus )

Saint Lambert-De-Lauzon, Quebec ( Montreal South Shore )  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Entretien-de-Pelouse-Plus/852466064863786>

Entreprise Demers 4 Saisons Inc  
Services Pro-Vert Franchise  
Lac Superieur, Quebec ( Near Mont-Tremblant )  
Owner - Michel Demers  
ent.demers@hotmail.com  
[www.entreprisedemers4saisons.com](http://www.entreprisedemers4saisons.com)

Entreprise Remi Fortier  
Quebec City, Quebec

Fertilisation Du North Inc  
Services Pro-Vert Franchise  
Mirabel, Quebec ( North of Montreal )  
Owner - Stephane Petrin  
info@fertilisationdunord.ca  
[www.fertilisationdunord.ca](http://www.fertilisationdunord.ca)

Extermination Et Fertilisation Poirier Inc  
Saint Jerome, Quebec ( North of Montreal )

Les Entreprises M Marion Inc  
Saint Eustache, Quebec ( North of Montreal )  
Owner - Marc Marion  
<http://www.lesentreprisesmarion.ca/>

Pelouse Santé  
Saint Eustache, Quebec ( North of Montreal )  
<http://www.pelousesante.ca/promotion>  
<https://www.facebook.com/PelouseSante/>

Serge Jodoin Paysagiste  
Sainte Madeleine, Quebec ( Montreal South Shore )  
Landscape Architect

Weed Man Laurentides-Lanaudiere  
Saint Jerome, Quebec ( North of Montreal )  
Weed Man Franchise  
Owner - Erick Laporte  
weedmanlaurentides@qc.aira.com