

Ontario Golf Course Pesticide Use – what is experience teaching us?

Thank you for participating in a *Prevent Cancer Now* Citizen Science Project!

In 2008, Ontario enacted a law to restrict pesticide use on lawns and gardens. At the time, the golf course industry was not restricted, as it committed to using "IPM" - Integrated Pest Management - to reduce pesticide use. No regulation was to be necessary, and to prove their success golf course superintendents submit annual reports, that are posted online.

You can find them here:

<http://www.ipmcouncilcanada.org/epar/en-CA/Default/courses.aspx>

Unfortunately, rather than putting data into a database, the golf course reports are online, as pdfs, jpegs and other formats, so we are seeking assistance to render this data into useful format. Data extraction will consist of putting numbers and text fields into an online form. As well as assessing progress and lessons learned, we will be asking the IPM Council to set up an online submission system so that data will be informative and useful.

With several years of data, we plan to examine the experiences and pesticide use of some of Ontario's top golf courses. We plan to examine:

1. Quantitative changes in pesticide use;
2. Shifts in types of products being used;
3. Strategies being found to be helpful, or otherwise; and
4. Quality of data / reporting.

Preliminary analyses have picked up on some interesting trends, such as annual variabilities, and shifts from older (quite toxic) insecticides to newer ones purported to be less toxic to non-insect life forms.

Our data extraction form is available here:

<http://goo.gl/forms/lu4RDhXLUeBYSQyJ3>

Corrine Giorgetti <cgior013@uottawa.ca>, a University of Ottawa student with experience in research databases, is assisting with this project. Please email Corrine for assignment of golf courses.

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How wonderful is it when something doesn't happen ... when "something" is cancer?