



## Pesticides and golf courses

The rules to follow to use pesticides on golf courses.

---

### Exceptions to the ban

By law, you can't use certain pesticides called Class 9 pesticides to kill weeds and insects on certain areas such as lawns and gardens.

Ontario's ban on the use of Class 9 pesticides provides an exception for golf courses, if certain conditions are met.

Golf courses are defined as areas used or intended to be used as playing surfaces including:

- tees
- fairways
- greens
- rough

Mini-golf and mini-putt courses are not considered golf courses.

### Source law

You can find a complete set of provincial rules related to this activity in:

- [Pesticides Act \(http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90p11\\_e.htm\)](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90p11_e.htm)
- [Ontario Regulation 63/09 \(http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws\\_src\\_regs\\_r09063\\_e.htm\)](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09063_e.htm)

### Class 9 pesticide use

Golf courses must meet the following conditions to use Class 9 pesticides:

- be registered by an approved *Integrated Pest Management* body, the first day Class 9 pesticides are used on the golf course
- receive accreditation by a ministry-approved *Integrated Pest Management* body by the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the first day Class 9 pesticides are used on the golf course
- prepare an **annual report** on Class 9 pesticide use and post it on the [IPM Council of Canada's website \(http://www.ipmcouncilcanada.org/epar/en-CA/Default.aspx\)](http://www.ipmcouncilcanada.org/epar/en-CA/Default.aspx)
- hold a **public meeting** to present the annual report

Class 9 pesticides must not be used on non-playing areas associated with a golf course such as:

- lawns
- driveways
- paths
- patios
- trees
- shrubs
- ornamental plantings
- gardens

[Complete list: Class 9 pesticides \(http://www.ontario.ca/document/class-9-pesticides\)](http://www.ontario.ca/document/class-9-pesticides)

## **Class 11 pesticide use**

Golf courses can use a pesticide product that contains a Class 11 pesticide including biopesticides and certain lower risk pesticides for cosmetic purposes to manage weeds, insects and plant diseases on playing and non-playing areas of the golf course.

[Complete list: Class 11 pesticides \(http://www.ontario.ca/document/class-11-pesticides\)](http://www.ontario.ca/document/class-11-pesticides)

## **Notice and warning signs**

You must use certain warning signs to notify golfers of pesticide use on playing surfaces.

When using a Class 9 pesticide, you must post a non-residential area notice sign (Sign F).

When using a Class 11 pesticide, you must post a non-residential area notice sign (Sign E).

[Download: pesticide use notice and warning signs \(http://www.ontario.ca/document/sample-warning-signs-pesticide-use\)](http://www.ontario.ca/document/sample-warning-signs-pesticide-use)

## **Annual report**

The owner or operator of the golf course is required to prepare an annual report summarizing all Class 9 pesticide use on the golf course.

The report must include:

- name of each pesticide ingredient used
- quantity of each pesticide ingredient used
- reason for using each pesticide ingredient
- map or plan of the golf course showing all application areas

- an explanation of any differences in the pesticides used or quantity used from the most recently prepared annual report
- how the use of pesticide ingredients was minimized
- how the use of pesticide ingredients will be minimized in the next calendar year
- name, contact information, IPM registration and signature of the golf course's IPM agent
- confirmation by the owner or a representative of the owner of the golf course that the report is complete
- any other relevant information on pesticide use asked for by the Director

The most recently prepared annual report must be made public and a copy must be provided to the public on request free of charge.

Annual reports must be prepared no later than 15 days before the public meeting and:

- posted on the IPM Council of Canada's website
- be displayed in a prominent place to allow access by the club members, guests and the public
- kept on the golf course property for at least 5 years

Learn more: IPM Council of Canada (<http://www.ipmcouncilcanada.org/epar/en-CA/Default.aspx>)

## **Public meeting**

The owner or operator of a golf course or his or her representative must:

- attend and present the annual report at a public meeting held before December 1st each year
- publish a notice in a newspaper, with a general circulation in the area where the golf course is located, at least 15 days before the date of the public meeting when the annual report will be presented
- give a copy of the notice to the occupants of each property beside the golf course or within 100 metres of the golf course

The notice must have:

- name and address of the golf course
- name and telephone number of the owner or representative of the owner
- date, time and place of the public meeting

If more than 50 people need to be notified, the owner or representative of the owner of the golf course may submit a written request to the Director for other ways to reach the public.

Submit your request by either:

**Mail:**

Director under the Pesticides Act  
Pesticides Management Section  
Standards Development Branch  
7<sup>th</sup> floor  
40 St. Clair Ave W  
Toronto ON M4V 1M2

**Fax:** 416-327-2936

**E-mail:** [SDB-PesticideApproval@ontario.ca](mailto:SDB-PesticideApproval@ontario.ca) (<mailto:SDB-PesticideApproval@ontario.ca>)

## Report misuse of pesticides

If you believe someone is not following the rules or is using a banned pesticide, please contact a Ministry of Environment and Climate Change district office during regular business hours.

After business hours, please contact: Pollution Hotline at **1-866-MOE-TIPS** ([1-866-663-8477](tel:+1-866-663-8477) (tel:+1-866-663-8477)).

Updated: June 9, 2016  
Published: March 20, 2014