



## Pesticide Free BC

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### Laws in Canada

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### Industry Opposition to BC Ban

The chemical landscaping industry opposes **any** pesticide regulation, except those that use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and focus on "plant" not "public" health.

Canada's "plant science" industry is led by [Crop Life Canada](#), the North American pest control product trade association (Canadian head office is in Etobicoke, Ontario).

Crop Life Canada opposes a [BC pesticide ban](#), as does BC's chemical landscaping industry.

See "Crop Life Opposes BC Ban" top right sidebar.

### Crop Life Opposes BC Ban

"Please don't let misinformation influence you to ban products that I consider important and that Health Canada has approved as safe."

Crop Life Canada's [On-line letter to BC Government opposing BC ban](#).

### "Sound" BC Decision - WCTA

"WCTA members represent a diversity of interests such as golf courses, sports field complexes, school boards, municipalities, sod farms, nurseries, landscapers and lawn care companies, lawn bowling greens, mechanics, horticulturists and the supporting industry of manufacturers, suppliers and distributors.

... and we recommend decisions made in BC are based on sound, validated, scientific information rather than heresay, supposition and opinion."

Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) [Feb 10, 2010 letter](#) to the Honourable Barry Penner BC Minister of Environment.

### The BC chemical landscaping industry is represented by:

- the [BC Landscape and Nursery Association](#) (BCLNA). Surrey, BC.

The BCLNA is the "voice for the BC landscape horticulture industry" and represents landscape professionals, nursery growers and retailers, and other horticultural groups.

As "advancing the use of IPM in the urban landscape is an industry priority", the BCLNA helped develop BC's [Pest Management Accreditation Program](#) with PlantHealth BC.

- the [Integrated Environmental Plant Management Association of Western Canada](#) (I.E.P.M.A.). Kelowna, BC.

The I.E.P.M.A. is an educational association for BC's professional pesticide applicators.

The Association opposes "anti-pesticide activists and the bans they have been promoting" and has an [on-line petition](#) to the Campbell Government opposing a BC ban.

For more on this petition, see [Turf & Recreation website](#).

For more on the I.E.P.M.A.'s opposition to pesticide regulation, see "IEPMA Opposes Activists" and "IEPMA Opposes BC Ban" right sidebars.

For the I.E.P.M.A.'s January 28/29, 2010 annual Kelowna conference agenda, [click here](#).

- [Plant HealthBC](#). Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey BC.

PlantHealthBC [certifies IPM applicators](#) through its' [Pest Management Accreditation Program](#).

PlantHealthBC supports IPM in [BC's landscaping industry](#) and is partnered with several [municipal parks and recreation](#) departments.

- the [Western Canadian Turfgrass Association](#) (WCTA). Hope, BC.

The WCTA represents BC's "turf" industry ... golf courses and other turf facility operators, landscapers, nurseries, school boards and municipalities.

The Association supports the I.E.P.M.A.'s opposition to a BC ban.

See " 'Sound' BC Decision - WCTA" left sidebar and the [Turf & Recreation website](#).

For events and highlights of the WCTA's Jan 31 - Feb 3, 2010 annual conference and show in Nanaimo, [click here](#).

### IEPMA Opposes Activists

"The I.E.P.M.A. has decided to develop a proactive program and business plan with the express purpose of opposing the anti-pesticide activists and the bans they have been promoting."

[Integrated Environmental Plant Management Assoc of Western Canada](#)

### "Sound" Science Gimmick

"While these corporations and trade associations are always on the side of sound science, everyone else in the public health field, according to this construct, favours 'junk science'.

Posthumously, George Orwell has given us a word for such rhetoric.

The vilification of any research that might threaten

### IEPMA Opposes BC Ban

"It is my belief that both homeowners and professional applicator companies should be able to use any pest control product that has been registered by Health Canada as safe to use when label recommendations are followed."

[I.E.P.M.A. on-line Petition to BC Government against a ban](#).

[Integrated Environmental Plant Management Assoc.](#)

### No Safe Application

" Canadian cosmetic pesticide bans were the result of the findings

corporate interests as 'junk science' and the sanctification of its own bought-and-paid-for research as 'sound science' is indeed Orwellian – and nothing less than standard operating procedure today.

But to give credit where credit is due, the sound science/junk science dichotomy has worked wonders as a public relations gimmick and has gained widespread acceptance in the current debate over the use of scientific evidence in public policy."

David Michaels.  
Doubt Is Their Product  
How Industry's Assault on  
Science Threatens Your Health.  
2008. pp. xi – xii.

#### Junk is "Sound"

"In the hotly contested terrain of regulatory and liability law, 'junk science' is the term that corporate defenders apply to any research, no matter how rigorous, that justifies regulations to protect the environment and public health.

The opposing term, 'sound science', is used in reference to any research, no matter how flawed, that can be used to challenge, defeat, or reverse environmental and public health protections."

Sheldon Rampton  
and John Stauber.

Trust Us, We're Experts!  
How Industry Manipulates  
Science and Gambles  
with Your Future. 2001.  
Pages 222 - 223.

#### Use "Properly" - PMRA

"If you choose to use pesticides, be sure to read the label and use them properly."

[Consumer Product Safety](#)  
PMRA, Health Canada

#### 2,4-D Bans

2,4-D is banned in Denmark, Norway & Sweden.

A petition is pending to cancel US product registrations.

Ontario and Quebec have banned 2,4-D.

In addition to I.E.P.M.A.'s organized opposition to a BC pesticide ban, as previously stated, Crop Life Canada has an on-line letter [opposing a BC ban](#) on lawn and garden products.

#### Industry promotes the right to use pesticides because they . . .

- Are the professional experts.
- Use products approved by Health Canada.
- Follow label instructions.
- Use "sound" IPM practices.

#### Promoters of IPM by "properly trained" BC applicators include . . .

- the [BC Landscape and Nursery Association](#) (BCLNA).
- the [BC Ministry of Environment](#).
- the [Integrated Environmental Plant Management Association of Western Canada](#) (I.E.P.M.A.).
- [PlantHealthBC](#).
- the [Western Canadian Turfgrass Association](#) (WCTA).

#### Industry opposes pesticide bans because . . .

- Pesticides are safe.
- Health Canada protects Canadians as decisions are based on "sound" science experts.
- Pesticides are rigorously reviewed and regulated. More rules are not needed.
- Bans lead to infestations and unattractive green spaces.
- Sports fields and other turf surfaces, including school yards and play grounds, are more costly to maintain when lawn chemicals are not used.
- Cosmetic pesticide use is no different than agricultural and forestry applications.

#### These positions are not supportable because . . .

- Health Canada does not protect the health or safety any Canadian because it "rubber stamps" industry's products. [Click here](#).
- Pesticides are designed to kill and continue to do harm long after their initial use. [Click here](#).
- The most vulnerable, particularly our children, are not protected. [Click here](#).
- The environment is not protected. [Click here](#).
- Organic turf operations are not more expensive than those that use chemicals. Chemicals are not needed for usable, organic "greens". [Click here](#).
- Ontario ban supporters "debunked" industry's position, including that cosmetic use is different from agricultural and forestry applications. [Click here](#).
- Eight BC health groups publicly "debunked" two myths in June 2010 . . . that Health Canada's regulation is sufficient and that pesticides are safe. [Click here](#).

#### Industry has other unsupportable arguments opposing bans, including . . .

##### • The "Sound" Science Gimmick

Don't get drawn into the "sound" vs "junk" public relations gimmick.

This "debate" is a self-serving distraction that says only Health Canada and the chemical industry use "real" or "sound" science.

All others, including those who want pesticide bans, use "junk" or "unsound" science.

This assertion is not based on fact and wastes everyone's time whenever it is presented.

See " 'Sound' Science Gimmick" and "Junk is 'Sound'" left sidebars.

##### • Golf and other Turf Exemptions

Industry continues to maintain that turf operations (particularly golf courses) have to use pesticides to maintain their "green" turf.

See "Golf is not Green" right sidebar.

Golf Digest's [How Green is Golf](#) 2008 article discusses golf's chemical dependence and why this must be phased out.

There is a widespread, entrenched attitude in the turf industry and amongst golfers that [golf courses must be exempt from rules](#) that are in place to protect public health and the environment.

of independent science, which had to overcome the pressure exerted by self interested industry lobbyists, who claim that pesticides are safe as long as they are 'properly' applied and the quantities are moderate.

This is mere industry propaganda, to which, unfortunately, some city councillors tend to succumb.

Training to apply pesticides 'properly' protects only the applicator, and chemicals can be harmful even when applied in minute quantities."

Jean Cottam  
Honorary Canadian observer,  
US Pesticide Working Group.  
[LTH, The Telegram](#)  
Dec 8, 2009

#### Golf is not Green

"The extensive use of pesticides on golf courses raises serious questions about people's toxic exposure, drift over neighboring communities, water contamination, and effects on wildlife and sensitive ecosystems."

[Beyond Pesticides](#) website.

#### Golf can be Green

"Typical golf courses are not only heavy users of pesticides, they are also held up as the standard for suburban lawns.

The goal of the Organic Golf Project is to prove that golf courses can be maintained organically, and thereby demonstrate that all turf can be maintained without chemical pesticides."

[The Neighbourhood Network Organic Golf Project](#) website.

#### BC IPM Applicator Death

"The connection was as plain to Debbie as the spectacular hanging baskets Brad was famous for

New Brunswick and PEI have banned some 2,4-D products.

Alberta has banned the sale of herbicide/fertilizer products, containing 2,4-D.

When will 2,4-D be banned in Canada? in BC?

#### Weed N Feed Bans

Weed N Feed is a herbicide/fertilizer combination product with 3 active ingredients:

**2,4-D**  
**Dicamba**  
**Mecoprop (MCPP)**

Click on the toxic ingredients to find out why five provinces have bans:

Quebec April 3, 2003  
Ontario April 22, 2009  
New Brunswick Dec 19, 2009  
Alberta January 1, 2010  
PEI April 1, 2010

Health Canada's "[unconquering](#)" ban takes effect Dec 31, 2012. Spot application products have not been banned.

#### BC Govt Promotes IPM

"Safe. Effective. Responsible. Ask about IPM".

BC Ministry of Environment [brochure](#) and [website](#).

#### No IPM - Cancer Society

"Integrated Pest Management (IPM), or the use of pesticides 'as a last resort' to deal with weeds and insects, should not be included in cosmetic pesticide legislation."

[Canadian Cancer Society](#)  
BC and Yukon.

#### Print "Pesticide Free" Poster



Why isn't BC Pesticide Free?  
Tell the Campbell Government to follow Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec and ban the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides.  
For more info, go to [www.pesticidefreebc.org](http://www.pesticidefreebc.org).

Click on the image to print this poster.

Put it up at your school, library, store, golf course . . .

Spread the word that BC needs a Pesticide Free ban in 2010.

Unfortunately, law makers tend to support this position.

#### **This is unconscionable.**

Why should golf courses and other "turf" facilities (our school and sports fields) continue to use chemicals that are known to harm our children, pets and the environment?

Golf courses do not need chemicals to maintain their greens.

See "Golf Can Be Green" right sidebar.

BC has two organic golf courses . . .

- Salt Spring Island's 9 hole [Blackburn Meadows](#), Canada's first organic golf course, and
- Grand Fork's [Granby River Golf Course](#), a 18 hole, par 72 course where "staff spend considerable time doing soil analysis to ensure the grasses - [bluegrass on the fairways and bent on the greens](#) - are healthy."

Several BC golf courses have significantly reduced their cosmetic pesticide use, including North Vancouver's [Seymour Golf and Country Club](#) and Saanich's [Cedar Hill Municipal Golf Course](#).

These golf courses will serve as excellent examples when BC phases out pesticide use on golf courses.

#### • Loss of Business

The chemical landscaping industry says they will experience business losses if they can not use cosmetic pesticides. This is not based on fact.

Organic landscaping is a "[green growing](#)" business in Ontario.

Five years after Halifax's [Aug 2000 pesticide bylaw](#), the number of landscaping companies increased by 53%.

This is trend is supported by Statistics Canada's [2005 report](#) on the impact of pesticide bylaws on lawn care and landscaping companies.

#### No Chemicals = Safer Workplace

The chemical landscaping industry also needs to "get it" that they must stop using chemical products to protect the health of their employees, and their families.

A chemical free workplace means . . .

- Staff do not need protective equipment.
- Companies do not have to purchase special insurance.
- Employees are not exposed to harmful toxins "on the job".
- Employees do not take contaminated items home.

Protecting staff health is among the [top 10 reasons](#) for landscaping companies to become organic and be Pesticide Free.

Sadly, a Peachland widow, whose husband was the town's licensed and trained IPM applicator, knows of this [occupational hazard](#).

See "BC IPM Applicator Death" right sidebar.

#### Industry needs to "Get It"

The chemical landscaping industry needs to "get it" that there is no safe, nor "proper" way, to use cosmetic pesticides.

"Proper application" may improve protection for the applicator, but the pesticides used by a resident, or a trained IPM applicator, do **not** stay where they have been "properly applied".

Pesticides go everywhere, persist long after their application and kill more than the intended "pest" target.

See "No IPM - Cancer Society" and "No Safe Application" sidebars.

Industry needs to "get it" that many others "get it" about harmful pesticide use.

The Provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec, and over 160 Canadian municipalities, have taken the precautionary approach to protecting human health and the environment, and have banned cosmetic pesticides.

In 2000, the federal Parliamentary [Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development](#) recommended:

**"Pesticide use should only be permitted in an emergency, such as a serious pest infestation which threatens the health of people and the environment."**

See [Pesticides, Making the right choice for the Protection of Health and the Environment](#) May 2000. Section 12.8.

This Committee also recommended that cosmetic pesticides be phased-out across Canada.

in downtown Peachland:

a link existed between the pesticides Brad used and the cancer that took him.

When it came to pesticide use, Brad would have assumed that what he was using was safe . .

Brad received his pesticide applicator's license in March 1997 and took the proper precautions."

#### Do Pesticides Cause Cancer?

Dave Preston  
Peachland View  
March 15, 2007.

#### Ontario's Pesticide Free

"We all want our lawns and gardens to look healthy and green.

The good news is we can have great results without using pesticides.

When we don't use pesticides to deal with common weeds and pests in our gardens,

it is not only better for our health (especially for young children and pets)

it's also better for the health of the entire eco-system: birds, animals, bees, butterflies, fish and plants.

For years, people have used organic or natural methods to grow beautiful lush grass and safe, healthy gardens.

In fact, these tried and true methods have been around for centuries — a lot longer than pesticides".

Ontario Ministry of Environment  
[Beautiful Lawns & Gardens Naturally](#) website.

#### Nova Scotia Gets Ban

"A proposed ban on the sale and use of non-essential pesticides will protect the health of Nova Scotia's environment and people across the province."

Nova Scotia Environment  
[May 4, 2010 News Release](#)

#### Protect BC's Drinking Water

Pesticides can pollute soil and groundwater,

**Make BC Pesticide Free!**

The [Canadian Cancer Society](#) wants the BC Government to pass legislation in 2010 for a "no IPM" ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides.

Watch their Make BC Pesticide Free! [video](#).

[take action!](#) now.

For more on the precautionary approach to pesticide regulation, [click here](#).

**Industry's opposition to pesticide bans is not shared by others including . . .**

- the [Nova Scotia](#), [Ontario](#) and [Quebec](#) Governments,
- an unprecedented [20 member health and environmental BC Coalition](#),
- the over 50 groups/organizations that support [Pesticide Free initiatives in BC](#), including the [Canadian Cancer Society - BC & Yukon](#), the [David Suzuki Foundation](#) and the [Regional District of Nanaimo](#).

**Industry's promotion of continued pesticide use through IPM is why BC needs a "no IPM" sale and use cosmetic pesticide ban.**

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**Why isn't BC pesticide free? [Take Action!](#) now.**

and can be carried into surface water by run-off.

Not only does this risk injury and death to non-target organisms, such as fish, birds, and beneficial insects, but it risks contaminating our drinking water with harmful chemicals.

[Team Watersmart](#)  
Regional District of Nanaimo

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