



## ENVIRONMENT

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# A Sea Of Yellow: how Manitoba's cosmetic pesticide ban has lead to a dandelion takeover

By [Timm Bruch](#) Reporter Global News

A sea of yellow is blanketing boulevards and lawns across Manitoba as the provincial government decides what to do about a pesticide ban it promised to review years ago.

In 2014, the NDP government banned cosmetic pesticides used to fight weeds like dandelions. At the time, the province said the ban was in the best interests of the health of Manitobans and of the environment.

But on the campaign trail in 2016, the Progressive Conservatives launched a review of that legislation. It wrapped that same year, but in 2018, the results still aren't in.

While Manitobans wait, they walk past thousands of dandelions on city property and in almost every yard in the city.



Many residents have expressed their frustration over having to use pesticides they believe is too expensive and not effective enough.

Winnipegger Jeannette Delorme spends hours digging up the weeds on her St. Vital property every spring and fall, filling entire buckets with dandelions.

**“They’re never ending,” Delorme said. “They’ll come and there’s no way you can eradicate it. Absolutely no way.”**

Delorme installed a rock garden over her front lawn to help keep the weeds off of her property, but on Monday she was still out with tools making sure all of the dandelions were gone.

“The weeds are going to take over if you let them, but you just have to keep at it and keep pulling and keep chopping,” Delorme said. “It’s a lot of elbow grease.”

But good news could be on the way for those who want to see less yellow and white this summer: on Monday, Minister of Sustainable Development Rochelle Squires said to expect the delayed announcement about pesticide soon.

“We need to talk to retailers, consumers applicators and to ensure that the environmental integrity is being maintained,” Squires said. “Progress is being made but it’s important that we get it right.”

The province said it continues to have discussions with various parties and that any modifications to the ban would be carefully considered.

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#### **Ryan Nash** ·

College Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau

is there actually a reason to get rid of dandelions?

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#### **Glen F Cruikshank**

Nope.

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#### **Jennifer Friesen**

They kill your grass and other plants and make gardens look like crap. Besides, where I live there are miles and miles of fields in every direction with flowering plants for bees. Everyone’s yard has dozens of flowering trees and shrubs, and roundup is not a pesticide and is not harmful to humans, animals or insects.

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#### **Norah G Fon** ·

Jennifer Friesen SPRAY DRIFT IS NOT A CONCERN !

National regulatory agencies, like Health Canada, ensure that pest control product labels have directions for use that include advice on how to minimize spray drift. Under normal use conditions specified on the label, pest control product residues from spray drift are NOT A CONCERN for users

or by-standers. Additional precautions are usually included in the label directions to further reduce potential human exposure to spray drift, such as directions to avoid spraying when by-standers are present.

Human health risk assessments of pest control products examine direct exposure to users ( both professional applicators and residential users ) and by-standers who may be nearby during application. The potential for exposure to pest control product residues deposited on the ground or foliage after application is also considered. Regulatory agencies must ensure that these anticipated exposures would NOT POSE A HEALTH CONCERN.

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### **Glen F Cruikshank**

Dandelions are good for the bees!!

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### **Norah G Fon** ·

False

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### **Suzanne Braun**

For dandelions and other weeds it's herbicides, pesticides are for bugs!!

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### **Norah G Fon** ·

INSECTICIDES are for bugs.

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### **Trudy MacArthur**

Pesticides are for rodents

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### **Steve Hupe**

Pest-icide. Weeds, bugs, invasive mammals, etc. All pests.

HERB-icide for nuisance vegetation.

INSECT-icide for bugs.

FUNGI-icide for invasive fungi (mushrooms).

RODENT-icide for rodents (mice, rats, squirrels, etc)....[See More](#)

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### **Judy Frazer**

“Dandelion roots and leaves.....eaten by First Nations people to support liver bile production, and the milky sap was used as a mosquito repellent”

These are apparently sacred plants regarded by FN people.  
Why aren't they being gathered and used to promote their traditions and culture?  
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**Grant Stein** ·

Ottawa, Ontario  
Nice racist comment.  
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**Norah G Fon** ·

Observers have NO objection to native peoples' choice of life-style, which, in this case, is a clear preference to live in an environment that looks like a pest-infested garbage dump. However, observers DO object to the imposition of this life-style choice on the majority of the community that DOES NOT want to live in this manner.  
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**Glen F Cruikshank**

Grant Stein Not racist at all, it's facts!! Why do people have to put a disgusting race slant on everything just because a name of a group is mentioned?? Is that any worse than saying "Whites" or any other race/color making dandelion wine? Which is a really great wine by the way!!!! or perhaps Whites and or other using dandelions etc. for other purposes? Shame on you!!  
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