Cancer Society Urges Alberta to Ban Pesticides

CBC News

(May 23, 2008) — The Canadian Cancer Society has renewed its call for Alberta to ban the sale and use of pesticides, citing its recent poll showing 87 per cent of respondents who say they would support restricting the use of cosmetic pesticides on public and private land.

Alberta is the only province without any type of pesticide restriction in place. Currently more than 100 municipalities across Canada have some type of pesticide bylaw, and Quebec has imposed a province-wide ban.

Cancer society spokesperson Lorie Boychuk said Thursday that mounting research is showing these chemicals can be linked to certain types of cancers.

"We don't want to wait until the science is 100 per cent conclusive," said Boychuk. "There's enough evidence today there is a threat. The bottom line is they're non essential pesticides. They're being used to make things or keep things beautiful."

Boychuk said there are a number of healthier alternatives — such as overseeding, aerating and fertilizing naturally — all of which allow a healthy lawn to choke out unwanted weeds.

Story Comments (4 of 15)

KimLeaman wrote: Posted 2008/05/23
I am amazed at how slowly we are moving away from using dangerous chemicals to solve cosmetic "problems". Why are we so enamoured with perfect lawns? Why are we willing to poison our homes and the entire planet just to make everything "pretty"? Does the average human not have the intelligence to understand the difference between form and function?

All you hear and read in the media is "Save the environment" and that is followed by an advertisement urging us to Renovate our bathroom before
someone sees that it is so 1995. Until we learn to forego form for function we are not going to solve these problems.

"Look at the neighbour's lawn, honey....... It's not as nice as ours....... what about our property values?......

Get over it... let the dandelions feed the bees that make our gardens (as If We still grow our own..) and crops grow. Let's get to the point in our "Civilization" where we can be proud of our 20 year old Decor and applaud those that don't want to tear everything down and make it bigger. Stop painting everything in sight, just because the color clashes with the colour of your new Contact lenses, that you bought to match the dress that matches the shoes you, 'Just had to have.......

Stop the insanity and let the citizens of the world act like they understand what a world is... Chose Function over Form and the world might not be as pleasing to the eye, but maybe there will still be someone here to appreciate it in a few hundred years.........

Claude1984 wrote: Posted 2008/05/23
How can anyone think that spreading toxic chemicals (aka pesticides) around their entire house is a good idea? It's not. Whenever I see a sign indicating pesticides have been sprayed/do not walk, I think to myself: a really dumb and lazy person must live in that house (or ignorant, hopefully just misinformed).

Bob's your uncle wrote: Posted 2008/05/23
Why is banning the answer to societies every-ill. Not all pesticides are created equal and therefore a blanket ban is not the proper solution. Compounds like glyphosate and 2,4,D have been studied for decades and the regulatory agencies around the world give them low risk catagorizations. Now other pesticides are nasty and should be highly regulated. I wonder to me if zero risk is the objective then these two organic authorized pesticides should be on the list as well. Did people know there is no agency in Canada that monitors "organic" pesticide levels on organic food. Why is that?

GreenCat wrote: Posted 2008/05/23
Alberta doesn't give a rat's a$$ about the environment. Alberta cares about oil (read: $$). Alberta doesn't care about the millions of gallons of potable water used in the extraction process nor about the lives of the hundreds of ducks (and countless other species) killed or harmed. Let me
know when Alberta wakes up and realizes that life is more valuable than money.

KimLeaman wrote: Posted 2008/05/23
To SleepyCanuckZZZ I never suggested you let it grow out...... I cut mine with a PUSH MOWER, 30 years old and still works, with a little sharpening now and then, and it runs on meat and potatoes, as do I. Using Chemicals to Kill Weeds may indicate laziness to some, if they are not too lazy to stop and think about it.