



Public Concerns With Cosmetic Pesticides Use





Prepare yourself in every way you can by increasing your knowledge and adding to your experience, so that you can make the most of opportunity when it occurs." *Mario Andretti*



Why in the NBLA Involved?

- *“The public should also know that zero pesticide drift is not a reality.”*
 - *Dr. Robert Mickle, Spray Efficacy Research Group (SERG)*



Human Health and Pesticides

- PMRA looks at the results of laboratory experiments presented to them by the companies manufacturing pesticides
 - All companies have to follow best practices
 - Scientific experiments are designed according to what we know of human physiology at this point.
 - Diazinon, Carbaryl, DDT etc
 - Acute toxicity, cancer, etc.



Human Health and Pesticides...

- Epidemiological Studies
 - Long term post marketing surveillance studies that measure health outcomes from long-term, low level exposure
 - Links found to cancers such as NHL, leukemia, solid tumours in kidneys (children) *Robin Walker, CAPE, Professor of paediatrics, Dalhousie U.*
 - Sub-lethal effects such as Parkinsons
 - Peer reviewed literature



Human Health and Pesticides

- Ontario College of Family Physicians
 - Systematic Review of the Literature on Human Health Effects
 - Found at:

<http://www.ocfp.on.ca/English/OCFP/Communications/CurrentIssues/Pesticides/>



Human Health and Pesticides...

Canadian Medical Association 2007

- 68. *The Canadian Medical Association urges all levels of government to show leadership by refraining from the cosmetic use of pesticides and aggressively employing safer alternatives to the use of chemicals.*
- 69. *The Canadian Medical Association urges all levels of government to undertake a public education program to increase awareness of the potential risks associated with the cosmetic use of pesticides and promote safer alternatives to the use of chemicals*
- 70. *The Canadian Medical Association encourages all levels of government to promote safe and rational pesticide use by using the precautionary principle in determining the impact of pesticides, including insecticides, herbicides and fungicides. (current at : http://www.cma.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/53612/la_id/1,htm)*



Other Environmental Effects

- Pollinators:
 - Habitat, forage down; use of pesticides up.
(*Envirozine: Environment Canada's on-line news magazine*)
 - 1.2 billion dollar industry depends on them
- Song birds:
 - Christmas bird count down
 - Many 70% since the sixties
 - Habitat, food, pesticides (Audubon)



Precautionary Principle

Canada signed and ratified the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which states:

"In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied.... Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

.



Solutions:

- Biodiversity
 - In lawns and gardens
- Naturalization
 - Fewer inputs required
 - Water, chemicals, time
 - Healthier ecology, healthier humans











Will bans hurt business?

- Halifax example:
 - Still for sale (CBC Marketplace) a problem.
 - Statistics Canada report, Oct 4 2005
 - Number of companies and number of employees have risen since the pesticide by-law was enacted there
 - Since 2000, up 53% from 118-180
 - More employees too: 50-99 from none to 5
 - 5-9 employees up from 16 – 22 etc
 - 10-19 up from 14 - 20

Business cont'd

- OLA ecompanies are experiencing annual growth rates of up to 30% in numbers of customers.
- Higher costs of doing business?
 - The Granite Club, golf course near Toronto reduced costs by \$40,000 by cutting pesticide use in half



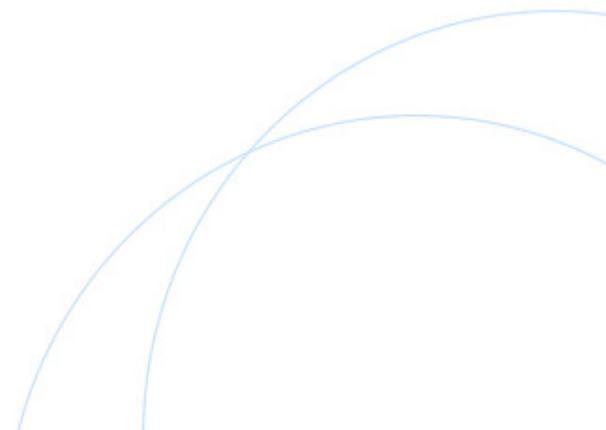






Changing the norm....

- Why try to keep up with the Jones....
.....when you can keep up with the
Windsors?
- Curb Appeal





Opportunity Knocks....

- Need for biodiversity
- Self Sufficiency
- Gardening as a hobby
- Baby-boomers aging
- Knowledge is power
- Local jobs
- Provincial Bans
 - Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick



- “If we don’t take change by the hand, one day it will seize us by the throat”

Winston Churchill





...and these have answered.

- **Envirem**
- **Organic Landscape Alliance**
- **Society of Organic Urban Landcare Professionals (SOUL)**
- **The Urban Farmer, Edmonton**
 - www.theurbanfarmer.ca
 - *Nurturing the development of natural, sustainable and edible landscapes throughout the Alberta region. Our landscape design and construction services integrate beauty and aesthetics with creating wildlife habitat, conserving water and energy, creating vibrant soils, and integrating edible species into the landscape. Workshops and consulting in sustainable landscape planning, organic gardening methods, permaculture design, and urban agriculture projects.*



- Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." *Seneca*
- The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." *Winston Churchill*