



TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

Pesticide Use Bylaw



The Province has given municipalities the authority to regulate, by bylaw, the use of pesticides that are used to maintain grass, outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers and other ornamental plants on private land and on land owned by the municipality. The Town of Qualicum Beach has adopted Pesticide Use Bylaw No. 650, 2010. This brochure is to inform homeowners, the garden care industry, Town staff and other stakeholders how the Bylaw impacts you.

What is the purpose of the Pesticide Use Bylaw?

Pesticides are chemicals that are regulated by both the federal and provincial governments. The application of pesticides in yards, on playing fields, and in parks, contributes to the cumulative chemical impact on the natural environment. They cannot be confined to a single location but move through the environment in the air, land and water, and may have an impact on non-target organisms and plants. The purpose of the Pesticide Use Bylaw is to protect the environment by reducing the amount of pesticides used for non-essential purposes on outdoor plants and grass—the cosmetic use of pesticides.

What is a pest?

In this Bylaw, a pest is a living organism that causes damage to, or is troublesome for, ornamental garden plants and turf. It does not include a virus, bacteria, fungus, or internal parasite that exists on or in humans or animals, such as dog fleas.

What is a pesticide?

A pesticide is a micro-organism or material that is used to deal with pests, and includes herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides and fungicides. Pesticides have a Pest Control Product or PCP number on its package label.

How does the Bylaw limit the use of pesticides?

The Bylaw prohibits the application or use of pesticides for the purpose of maintaining outdoor turf (grass), trees, shrubs, flowers, and other ornamental plants on certain lands within the Town.

To whom does the Bylaw apply?

The Bylaw applies to anyone who uses pesticides on public or private land, EXCEPT: on the residential areas of farms; to buildings or inside buildings; and on land used for agriculture, forestry, transportation, public utilities or pipelines (per the BC *Integrated Pest Management Regulation*). Public land includes land owned by the Town, and land occupied by our tenants (except golf clubs). Private land means land used for residential purposes. The Bylaw does not apply to a parcel that is used solely for purposes other than residential (e.g., commercial, institutional or industrial). The effective date of the bylaw on Public Land was on adoption November 1, 2010 and for Private Land, it will be July 1, 2011.

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FAST FACTS—on what is allowed...



What does this mean for homeowners?

Starting July 1, 2011, you can no longer use traditional chemical-based pesticides on your lawn or garden, e.g. fungicides, most insecticides and the ‘weed & feed’ type fertilizers. The Bylaw prohibits the non-essential use of pesticides. Although the Bylaw cannot apply to commercial properties, such as hotels, many businesses are already practicing pesticide-free gardening that meets the spirit of this Bylaw.

Does the Bylaw apply to all uses of pesticides?

No. There are exceptions required by the Province which are specified in the Bylaw, including:

- Excluded Pesticides (allowed for use on residential and Town properties) are listed on Schedule 2 of the *Integrated Pest Management Regulation* (excerpt below) which includes things like vinegar, insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, sticky traps, and diatomaceous earth. Avoid the more toxic products included on the list.
- Pesticides applied: to manage pests that transmit human or animal diseases or impact agriculture or forestry; to the inside or outside of a building or greenhouse; on a residential area of a Farm (as classified under the *Assessment Act*); to public or private swimming pools; to control or eradicate an Alien Invasive Species of plant (per BC Reg. 144/2004 *Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction-Environment and Wildlife Regulation*); or, on lands used for the purposes of agriculture, farms, forestry, transportation, public utilities or pipeline, unless the public utility or pipeline is vested in the Town.

BC Regulation 604/2004 Integrated Pest Management Regulation - Schedule 2 – Excluded Pesticides

1. acetic acid (DOMESTIC)
2. animal repellents (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL) except thiram
3. anti-fouling paints (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
4. antispain wood preservatives used on private, industrial land owned by the company or person responsible for the application (COMMERCIAL)
5. asphalt solids (pruning paints) (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
6. bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk) (DOMESTIC)
7. bactericides used in petroleum products (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
8. boron compounds (DOMESTIC)
9. boron compounds with up to 5% copper for insect control and wood preservation (COMMERCIAL)
10. capsaicin (DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL and RESTRICTED)
11. cleansers (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
12. corn gluten meal (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
13. d-phenothryn (DOMESTIC)
14. d-trans-allethrin, also referred to as d-cis, trans allethrin (DOMESTIC)
15. deodorizers (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
16. fatty acids (DOMESTIC)
17. ferric phosphate (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
18. ferrous sulphate (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
19. hard surface disinfectants (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
20. insect bait stations (DOMESTIC)
21. insect pheromones (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
22. insect repellents (DOMESTIC)
23. laundry additives (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
24. material preservatives (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
25. methoprene (DOMESTIC)
26. mineral oils for insect and mite control (DOMESTIC)
27. n-octyl bicycloheptene dicarboximide (DOMESTIC)
28. naphthalene for fabric protection (DOMESTIC)
29. paradichlorobenzene for fabric protection (DOMESTIC)
30. pesticides in aerosol containers (DOMESTIC)
31. pesticides registered under the Federal Act for application to pets (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
32. piperonyl butoxide (DOMESTIC)
33. plant growth regulators (DOMESTIC)
34. polybutene bird repellents (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
35. pyrethrins (DOMESTIC)
36. resmethrin (DOMESTIC)
37. rotenone (DOMESTIC)
38. silica aerogel, also referred to as silica gel, amorphous silica and amorphous silica gel (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
39. silicon dioxide, also referred to as “diatomaceous earth” (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
40. slimicides (COMMERCIAL)
41. soaps (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
42. sulphur, including lime sulphur, sulphide sulphur, and calcium polysulphide (DOMESTIC)
43. surfactants (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
44. swimming pool algicides and bactericides (DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL)
45. tetramethrin (DOMESTIC)
46. wood preservatives (DOMESTIC)

...and safe alternatives to get your yard off drugs!

The best defence against needing to use pesticides is a healthy lawn and garden. Use native and disease-resistant plant varieties. Choose the right plant for the right place in your yard. Ask your garden centre staff, landscaper or garden club about how to garden without pesticides. Use the following practices to replace the use of pesticides in your yard:

- Encourage good bugs, e.g. worms, lady bugs and spiders.
- Fertilize naturally with manure and compost.
- Try companion planting, e.g. marigolds to repel nematodes/attract slugs.
- Water deeply (25 mm/1") only *once* a week. Turn off the automatic sprinkler system if it has been raining. No need to water twice! To prevent mildew, avoid sprinkling at night.
- Overseed your lawn with a perennial rye grass mixture to create a dense lawn that will smother weeds.
- Keep mower blades sharp, and mow often, removing no more than 1/3 of the blades of grass each time. Keep grass 6-9 cm high to crowd out weeds and grow longer roots. "Grasscycle" by using a mulching or hand mower to leave your grass clippings on your lawn. Grass clippings can supply almost 25 per cent of your lawn's fertilizer needs every time you mow!
- Rake out thatch to discourage pests, aerate annually, and then top dress with 0.5-1 cm sand or compost.
- Dig out any weeds by hand or use pesticide alternatives, like boiling water, soap or vinegar.
- Rotate the species of vegetables and flowers in your garden from year to year, or at least rotate the same species between locations, to discourage soil diseases and insects from setting in.
- Schedule the planting and harvesting of your plants to avoid the times when insects are most abundant and damaging, and inspect your plants regularly for pests and diseases.
- Put bird feeders and bird houses in your yard; birds are a natural form of insect control.



Starting your fall garden clean-up? Don't dump the plants and soil from your hanging baskets and pots in the forest or at the edge of the lawn...this is one of the most common ways that **INVASIVE PLANTS** can be introduced, such as English Ivy, Lamium (also known as 'silver nettle vine') and blue periwinkle. Instead, dispose of the plants and soil at the Transfer Station.



TO GET RID OF: **TRY:**

Weeds

- Pour boiling water over weeds between paving stones.
- Try home recipes, e.g. spray weeds with a mixture of 1 L of water with 1 Tbsp of rubbing alcohol
- Look for alternative products, soap-based herbicides and weed oils such as EcoClear & Scott's EcoSense.
- Landscape fabric under organic mulch or compost will help prevent weed growth specifically for rhododendrons and roses. Apply corn gluten meal on grass early in season to inhibit weed growth before they emerge.
- Manual removal of dandelions and other broadleaf weeds using a dandelion puller is the most effective method.
- For removing algae in ponds: manually rake or remove as much algae as possible; add nitrifying bacteria to help remove algal nutrients.

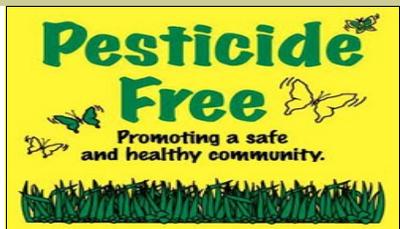
Insects

- Use insecticidal soaps and oils for white flies and spider mites.
- Diatomaceous earth is useful for crawling insects.
- For hornets and wasps, physically remove nests (carefully, of course!)

Fungus, mold and rusts

- Try borax, fungicidal soap, sulphur-based fungicides.
- For black spot fungus (common to roses) try a solution of 1 tsp baking soda and 2 tsp horticulture oil in 4 litres of water.
- Sulphur-based fungicides are also effective against black spot fungus.

Town of Qualicum Beach—FAST FACTS—about Pesticide Use Regulation



What happens if someone does apply a restricted pesticide?

It is an offence under the Bylaw to use or allow the use of pesticides, except as permitted by the Bylaw. For example, starting July 1, 2011, it would be an offence to apply a pesticide to a residential lawn. In addition, each day that a violation occurs or continues to exist would be a separate offence.

How will the Bylaw be enforced?

During November 2010 to June 2011, staff will focus on educating residents and industry professionals about the new Bylaw. Starting in July 2011, a person who commits an offence may be issued a ticket in the amount of \$150, as established in the Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw.

What can complainants do?

Neighbours and others are encouraged to report any applications or suspected applications of pesticides on private or public land.

How can I safely dispose of pesticides that I have at home?

Follow the rules on the label and never dispose of leftover pesticides down the sink, into the toilet, or down a sewer or street drain. Pesticides interfere with the operation of wastewater treatment systems and pollute waterways. Pesticides harm fish, frogs, plants and other living organisms. For domestic containers not exceeding 10 L, with a poison logo (skull and crossbones) and a PCP number, take them to the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, 477 Kenworth Rd., Nanaimo, BC. Open 7am-7pm daily. Call 250.758.7777. Residents can also bring unwanted pesticides to the Town's drop-off at the Annual Seedy Saturday.

Why can I still buy chemical pesticides?

Only the provincial and federal governments may regulate the sale of pesticides and, to date, the sale of cosmetic pesticides is not banned in BC.



What is the Federal Government's role?

The Federal Government is responsible for the federal pesticide regulatory system, or, *what* can be applied.

What is the Province's role?

The Provincial Government regulates what happens once a pesticide has entered the market, including the sale, transport, storage, disposal and application of pesticides in BC, or, *how and by whom*, after they have been registered for use by the Federal Government. The Province also determines what local government may regulate and, for pesticide use, only authorizes regulating non-essential pesticide use on private residential and municipal property, with exceptions. In early 2010, the Province surveyed the public on potential new statutory protections to further safeguard the environment from cosmetic chemical pesticides; the input is currently under review. Ontario, PEI and Quebec each have adopted legislation that prohibits the use, sale and retail display of chemical pesticides for non-essential or "cosmetic" uses. This eliminated the need for municipal pesticide bylaws in those provinces.

What is the RDN's role?

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) supports member municipalities' efforts by taking a cosmetic pesticide reduction public education and outreach role, including co-ordinating a regional pesticide program staff group. Best practice for pesticide reduction is a combination of education and regulation. A coordinated effort approach maximizes the effectiveness of messaging and avoids public confusion caused by different regulatory schemes. However, it is ultimately a decision of each municipality whether to adopt a pesticide regulation bylaw and the form of that bylaw (all subject to Provincial legislation). By Fall 2010, ten municipalities on Vancouver Island (including Comox, Courtenay, Nanaimo and Qualicum Beach) have adopted Pesticide Use Bylaws.

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

Report pesticide concerns to Bylaw Enforcement at
Town Hall: P: 250.738.2205 or 250.752.6921
E: bylaw@qualicumbeach.com

Read the complete bylaw and cosmetic pesticide reduction information at www.qualicumbeach.com or Town Hall.

Visit: www.rdn.bc.ca

This brochure is provided for convenience only. To ensure complete, accurate and current information, refer to the applicable bylaw or regulation. Pesticide Use Bylaw No. 650, 2010, regulates, prohibits and imposes requirements in relation to pesticides. Municipal Ticket Information Utilization Bylaw No. 626, 2008 establishes the fines for pesticide use offences.