

Pesticides

The management of lawn pests should always be carried out in the most ecologically sound manner possible. It is important to protect our health from the potentially harmful effects of all environmental toxins. All pesticides, whether chemical or organic, pose an inherent risk or potential danger to humans, plants, animals, and fish if not used as directed. Conservation Halton supports the legislation of the Ontario Pesticides Act regulating the sale, use, transportation, storage, and disposal of pesticides. For the average homeowner, simple alternatives to pesticides do exist for effective lawn and garden maintenance.



Pesticides can be harmful to plants, including these beautiful wildflowers

What are pesticides?

Pesticides are chemical or biological substances used to destroy or control insects, weeds, plant diseases, and other pests.

Pesticides can include:

Herbicide - lawn and garden products, such as weed and grass killers (Weed & Feed)

Insecticides - Chinch bug and grub control products, termite control products

Fungicide - disease control products (rose dust), swimming pool chemicals (chlorine), wood preservatives (Copper, Chromium Arsenic)

Conservation Halton supports and encourages the development of education and awareness programs on practices to have healthy lawns and gardens without the use of pesticides.

Summary

Conservation Halton's viewpoint regarding pesticide use outlines the importance of considering the potentially harmful effects of all environmental toxins, including pesticides, on human health, wildlife, and plant health.

Watershed municipalities are encouraged to eliminate non-essential or cosmetic use of pesticides on publicly owned lands. Conservation Halton supports the current efforts of its watershed municipalities and the Province to develop responsible and proactive positions on the matter of plant healthcare management and reduction of environmental toxins.

Building healthy greenspaces with a wide diversity of native life forms can be an effective long-term method of pest control.

Conservation Halton encourages an organic, ecological approach to the management of plant health problems using regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are required. We encourage the use of educational, mechanical and biological methods to keep pest numbers low enough to prevent damage. Specific pesticide treatments should be made only when monitoring indicates the pest will cause unacceptable ecological, human or economic harm. In such situations, treatments can be selected and timed to be most effective and least hazardous to the natural environment.

For over a decade, Conservation Halton has not used pesticides on a large scale on any of its lands. Plant healthcare monitoring and management is used for all pest situations and only the safest treatment methods, causing the least impact on the environment, are used.

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) focuses on pest control as opposed to eradication, and opposes complete dependence on pesticides. Instead, IPM uses the combined impact of multiple control methods to manage pests. These methods may include: public education, handpicking, traps, barriers, or biological controls. With any IPM approach, the emphasis should be on effective monitoring and organic solutions to control or eliminate pests. Through prudent avoidance, pesticides are used only as a



Greenspaces should be free of environmental toxins

last resort when other control methods fail in their effectiveness. In this way, IPM reduces human and environmental exposure to potentially harmful chemicals.

Conservation Halton Natural Champion for a Healthy Watershed



Conservation Halton is the community based environmental agency that protects, restores and manages the natural resources in its watershed. Conservation Halton has staff that includes ecologists, land use planners, engineers, foresters and educators, along with a network of volunteers, who are guided by a Board of Directors that includes municipally elected and appointed citizens. Conservation Halton is recognized for its stewardship of creeks, forests and Niagara Escarpment lands through science based programs and services.

For more information about Pesticides contact Conservation Halton:

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