
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Information Note

4 March 2005

Action Plan on Urban Use Pesticides

Since 2000, the PMRA and its provincial/territorial partners have been addressing the concerns of Canadians over residential uses of pesticides through the implementation of the *Action Plan on Urban Use Pesticides*. The Action Plan is comprised of three key elements:

1. Implementing a Healthy Lawns Strategy to show Canadians how they can reduce their reliance on lawn pesticides;
2. Encouraging pesticide manufacturers to develop reduced-risk products in conjunction with continued efforts at the PMRA to register reduced-risk pesticides as quickly as possible; and
3. Re-evaluating the major pesticides used for lawn care using the latest health and environmental assessment approaches adopted both in Canada and the United States.

The Action Plan addresses the concerns of Canadians by making them aware of a wide range of pest prevention techniques, increasing the availability of reduced-risk pesticides and ensuring that the pesticides most commonly used on lawns meet modern scientific safety standards.

The Healthy Lawns Strategy

The Healthy Lawns Strategy is being implemented with the participation of provincial and territorial officials to promote and support effective alternative strategies to, as well as reduced reliance on pesticide use for lawn care.

The Strategy emphasizes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches, such as pest prevention, use of reduced-risk products and judicious use of pesticides. A variety of communications materials have been developed in support of the Strategy, including the *Healthy Lawns Tips Folder*, the *Read the Label* fact sheet and a series of *Healthy Lawns NewsLine* articles. These materials and other relevant information may be downloaded from Healthy Lawns website: www.healthylawns.net.

Registration of Reduced-Risk Pesticides

To facilitate the registration of reduced-risk pesticides in Canada, the PMRA established a joint review program in 1996 with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Expanding on this program, the PMRA developed a reduced-risk initiative in 2002 (published as Regulatory Directive DIR2002-02) to encourage pesticide manufacturers to apply for Canadian registration of reduced-risk products that are currently available in the United States.



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The PMRA encourages the development, registration and use of reduced-risk products by providing an expedited timeframe for registration of products that qualify. The initiative uses the same criteria as the USEPA to determine the eligibility of chemicals and recognizes the USEPA's biopesticide designation. Currently, about 70 percent of the reduced-risk chemical pesticides registered or pending registration in the United States are also registered or pending registration in Canada.

Re-evaluation of Lawn Care Pesticides

In September 2000, the PMRA announced the priority re-evaluation of the most commonly available lawn pesticides. Re-evaluation uses modern scientific standards to determine their continued acceptability for registration and whether any changes need to be made to the conditions of registration of these chemicals.

The re-evaluations have been completed for four lawn pesticides; residential uses of the insecticides chlorpyrifos, diazinon and malathion (broadcast turf use) as well as the herbicide racemic mecoprop are being phased out. The re-evaluation reviews for three additional herbicides—2,4-D, dicamba, MCPA—have been conducted and regulatory proposals are targeted for publication in 2005. Re-evaluation of the insecticide carbaryl is underway and is expected to be completed by 2006.

Need More Information?

Visit the following links on the PMRA's website to read more about the topics discussed in this document.

Action Plan on Urban Use Pesticides

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/hlawns/hl-ActionPlan-e.pdf

Healthy Lawns Strategy

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/spm/urban-e.html

Healthy Lawns Website

www.healthylawns.net

The PMRA Initiative for Reduced-Risk Pesticides DIR2002-02)

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/dir/dir2002-02-e.pdf

Information Note: *Re-evaluation of Pesticides Program*

www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/highlights/in20050209-e.html

PMRA documents and additional information are also available through the Pest Management Information Service.

Telephone: 1 800 267-6315 or (613) 736-3799

Fax: (613) 736-3798

E-mail: pmra_infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca

