

**Subject:** Re: Pesticides - 2, 4-D and Roundup (glyphosate)

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**Date:** Sat, 16 Jun 2007 16:23:51 -0700

**To:** council@dnv.org

**CC:** Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, fonvca@fonvca.org, John Hunter <hunterjohn@telus.net>, Bill Tracey DNV <wrtracey@telus.net>

Mayor & Council:

With respect to pesticides, some people suggest that you should ignore science and rely on common sense. I would argue that common sense is perfectly in-line with what the scientific experts have deemed to be safe and of no health threat. The alternative to the science on this issue is to resort to making regulatory decisions based on unfounded fears and individual phobias.

Beyond the campaign to ban harmless pesticides, there are people convinced -- without any scientific basis -- that cell phones, overhead powerlines and electrical appliances are making them sick. Even personal fragrances are being targeted for bans. It never ends. When it concerns toxicity, however, it is always a matter of **dosage**. A few years ago I wrote following in order to put this issue into some perspective:

*"Alcohol can be extremely toxic and can kill you either quickly over time or by prolonged abuse. Yet countless studies show that moderate alcohol consumption can be excellent for your health. Consider also, do you ever swim in a pool or drink tap water? Of course both are treated with chlorine which, at the right dose, is about as deadly a substance as you can find anywhere, but used properly is a benefit to human health. Sodium Hydroxide which was spilled in bulk quantities in that CN train derailment near Squamish and killed fish in a river, is a typical and harmless ingredient in most soaps we use every day. Have you or your children ever picked-up head lice? Well, the only shampoo able to kill the bugs is really just an insecticidal soap -- and you have to scrub your head with it! Have you ever used mosquito repellent on your skin? Well, it's a chemical too. I could go on.*

*The reason why some municipal governments have passed bans on safe pesticide use isn't because there is a greater awareness or environmental responsibility at the local level, but rather, municipal governments are by far the easiest level of government for the irrational anti-pesticide lobby to 'pick-off'.... In spite of people living longer and healthier lives than ever before, we are increasingly, and irrationally, afraid of the latest and trendiest health scares.*

*When it comes to the safe use of pesticides, a one-liter squirt bottle of Federally-approved selective herbicide or insecticide used occasionally in my family's garden is of absolutely no health threat to anyone. However, my adjacent neighbour's noxious 'Horse Tail' weeds and spreading blackberry vines are a direct threat to the use and enjoyment of my garden which my family takes pride in, and spends a great deal of time and money, not to mention hard work, to maintain and keep beautiful thereby benefiting the surrounding neighbourhood."*

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts

Monica Craver wrote:

Dear Corrie:

I have yet to have a close encounter with a bear on my dandelion, and wild "hair cat's ear" cousin, covered

property. Bears are mostly travelling the creek and stream corridors and going for garbage, bird seed and ripened fruit trees around homes adjacent to these wildlife corridors. Dandelions? -- meh!

The safest way to control weeds on a lawn is to mow and mulch frequently. Leave moss to grow where it lies. No use fighting mother nature. Both my neighbours to the sides of me have more a problem with their lawns after trying to "fix" them. My lawn is still green and healthy, mixed with "alpine meadow" wild flowers that grow where they may. When the lawn gets too unruly, I mow.

Some time in the future, we may be looking at a native ground cover for the back and front of our property and retire the lawn mower. I use an electric mower for the fast growing season, and later, a push mower/lawn scizzors to tame the "weeds" on my lawn. Only the first mowing of the season gets bagged, as it may contain disease, fungus, etc. from overwintering. The rest is mulched back into the lawn as natural "fertilizer".

**I would strongly recommend Mayor and Council consider for every new house built, instead of covering the lawn with grass turf, builders cover the yard with native ground covering which can still be walked on, etc. Most grass turf is laden with pesticides.** This caused a close relative, who worked as a horticulturalist handling such turf, to become poisoned and then became increasingly chemically-sensitive. She is now on disability compensation.

Don't trust the government and industry "experts". Trust *common sense* when making the best decisions for the future health of the District's residents. Please work to implement the Natural Steps conditions.

**I trust the Natural Steps "common sense edict #2", which states:**

### *System Condition no. 2*

#### **Substances produced by society must not systematically increase in nature.**

*This means:* substances must not be produced at a faster pace than they can be broken down in nature or deposited into the earth's crust.

*Because:* otherwise quality will be lost due to the inevitable spread of substances and their accumulation toward often unknown limits beyond which irreversible changes occur.

*In practical terms this means:* decreased production of natural substances that are accumulating, and a phase out of all persistent and unnatural substances.

In essence:

**2. What We Make: Chemicals, Plastics and Other Substances – *Nature must not "be subject to systematically increasing concentrations of substances produced by society."*** Simply, we need to use safe, biodegradable substances that do not cause the spread of toxins in the environment. Why? Since World War II, our society has produced more than 85,000 chemicals, such as DDT and PCBs. Many of these substances do not go away, but rather, spread and bio-accumulate in nature and the fat cells of animals and humans. Cells don't know how to handle significant amounts of these chemicals, often leading to cancer, hormone disruption, improper development, birth defects and long-term genetic change.

**Action:** We can support green procurement policies and use non-toxic natural cleaning materials and personal care products. We can decrease our use of plastics and reuse the ones we have, such as plastic bags, plates, cups and eating utensils. We can stop using CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances. We can use safe, natural pest control in our schools, parks, homes, lawns and gardens. We can support farmers in becoming sustainable and eliminating hazardous pesticides by voting with our dollars for certified organic food and clothing. We can support the elimination of factory farm feedlots and manure ponds that cause air and water pollution.

(<http://homepages.mtn.org/iasa/tnssystemconditions.html>)

**\*\*\* What the argument finally comes down to is this: Is the District of North Vancouver sincere about**

**implementing The Natural Step Framework Four Conditions for Sustainability? \*\*\***

If so, why is DNV still considering allowing so much lee-way for lawn care companies to continue their use of chemicals on residential lawns, golf courses, etc.? We cannot have it both ways. It is either the Natural Step Framework guiding DNV in these decisions -- *or not!* Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Corrie Kost](#)  
**To:** [Monica Craver](#)  
**Cc:** [fonvca@fonvca.org](mailto:fonvca@fonvca.org) ; [council@dnv.org](mailto:council@dnv.org)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2007 9:26 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Pesticides - 2, 4-D and Roundup (glyphosate)

Monica Craver wrote:

My response to Corrie Kost:

There is plenty of evidence proving pesticides are harmful to both our physical and mental health. *Unsafe with any Application!* My chemical sensitivity was triggered by accidental overexposure of pesticides during an apartment spraying in the mid-eighties. I suffer the effects of downwind spraying, etc, every Spring when the chemical lawn people are out in force with their herbicides, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides, in general. And during the Summer when they come again to do more spraying. I have approached many of these lawn people before spraying if the wind is blowing in the direction of my home. Why should I have close my windows, etc. to protect myself?

Why should my health suffer so my neighbour can keep his grass weed-free? Frankly, in my books, grass is just another weed, and not as pretty as wild violets, buttercups and those many bee and butterfly attracting dandelions. My lawn and weed care is as easy as mowing and mulching, frequently. **My health, and yours, is of greater worth than a "green" lawn.** Please look to banning pesticides, for my health, your children, your pet dogs, cats, etc. We will all thank you for it.

--Monica Craver--  
North Vancouver, BC V7K 2R3

Dear Monica,

I have attached my somewhat updated review on Pesticides. All scientific studies to date indicate that 2,4-D applied appropriately is safe for use by the public. Unfortunately DNV Council appears to be leaning towards allowing only licensed companies and NOT the public to use pesticides. In my opinion it is the spraying of it (done only by these companies and hardly ever the public) that can and has been abused. So council, if they ban anyone from applying pesticides it should be the commercial companies!

As for dandelions - they are a bear attractant!

Corrie Kost  
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