

Bylaw No. 7102

On 2010-APR-26, the City of Nanaimo Pesticide Use Bylaw 2010 No. 7102 was adopted by Council and will take effect on 2011-APR-04. It prohibits the use and/or application of pesticides for maintaining vegetation established for aesthetic and ornamental reasons on Private and Public Land. The Bylaw states that *“no person, owner, or occupier of land, shall use or apply a pesticide or grant permission or authority to use or apply a pesticide for the non-essential purpose of maintaining outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers, other ornamental plants or turf on Private or on Public Land.”*

A copy of the Bylaw, as well as other information, is available online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/pesticidefree.

What is a pesticide defined as?

A ‘pesticide’ is a term that broadly refers to all formulations that are used to prevent, destroy, repel, attract or reduce pest organisms. These include herbicides (for plants), insecticides (for insects), fungicides (for fungus), and miticides (for mites).

What does the Bylaw restrict?

The Bylaw restricts pesticide use for non-essential cosmetic purposes, primarily lawn and garden beautification on residential and City property. This includes the lawn and garden space of all single-family and multi-family residences, along with lawns and gardens operated by the City. The Bylaw does not apply to:

- management of pests that transmit human diseases;
- management of pests that impact agriculture or forestry;
- residential areas of a farm;
- the inside or outside of a building or greenhouse;
- lands used for the purposes of agriculture, farms, forestry, transportation, public utilities or pipelines (except where owned by the City);
- public or private swimming pools; and
- managing for invasive plants.



Are all pesticides now affected by the Bylaw?

Most conventional pesticides, including products labeled “herbicide”, “insecticide”, “fungicide” or combined fertilizer/herbicide products (often referred to as “weed and feed”) will not be permitted. Alternatives include:

- Biological pest controls, which include nematodes, ladybugs and some microorganisms such as *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (Bt) bacteria; and
- Permitted products listed as “excluded” in the Provincial Integrated Pest Management Regulation:
www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipmp.

How do I tell if a pesticide is permitted or not?

Read the label. Common active ingredients in most conventional pesticides, such as 2,4-D, Mecoprop, Dicamba, Glyphosate, Carbaryl and Malathion are not permitted under the Bylaw.

However, many safe alternatives are available and effective. To identify permitted and non-permitted pesticides, look for the “active ingredient” or “GUARANTEE” on the product label. Some common active ingredients are listed on the back of this brochure. Also, see “How to read a label” at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/pesticidefree.

Are there penalties for pesticide use?

The City may ticket residents and businesses that do not comply with the Bylaw. Enforcement will take place on a complaint basis. The Bylaw can be enforced with fines of \$250 up to and including \$10,000.

How can I dispose of pesticides?

Pesticides in containers that have both the poisonous (skull and crossbones) symbol AND a pest control product (PCP) number are accepted at the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange. For more information on pesticide disposal, contact the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange at 250-758-7777 or visit their facility at 2477 Kenworth Road.

Pesticides should never be disposed of by pouring down storm drains, household sinks or toilets. Pesticides should never be put in your garbage.

What is the City’s current practice?

Parks, Recreation & Culture staff use a “stepped” approach when managing City lawns and gardens. In addition to careful soil conditioning, a full range of controls such as biological, environmental, cultural, physical and mechanical controls are used to maintain plant health and to deal with any pest problems. Permitted pesticides are used ONLY as a last resort.



How can I learn more about alternative ways to deal with pests?

If you are concerned about yard, lawn or garden pests, there are effective alternatives to conventional pesticides that are available to help you out. The City’s website provides background on the Bylaw, links to useful websites, and information on workshops to help you maintain your yard, lawn and garden without pesticide use.

Contact us

For more information, please contact the Environmental Planner at 250-755-4483. For enforcement, please contact Bylaw Services at 250-755-4422

www.nanaimo.ca/goto/pesticidefree



Alternatives to Pesticides

Choosing alternatives to pesticides when maintaining healthy gardens, yards and lawns is important for our community and environment. Think about healthy plants as part of a healthy ecosystem.

Be curious and get educated—gardening can be a lot of fun! Here are a few tips about healthy gardening to consider:

Preventing Damage

Minimize attraction of pests in the first place by adopting healthy practices such as:

- using native and ornamental plant varieties that are well adapted to our region, require low maintenance and are resistant to local pests and diseases;
- adding nutrients to your soil such as compost;
- learning about companion planting (plants grown side by side to protect other plants, such as planting marigold to repel insects);
- avoiding overhead sprinkling in the evening (causes mildew on plants); and
- learning that “right plant, right place” means planting where plants naturally thrive. Find out about plant preferences for your garden (sun, shade, soil and watering practices).

Manual Efforts & Natural Controls, such as

- mulching between plants and over bare soil patches to eliminate weeds and retain moisture;
- using slug traps; and
- washing leaves with plain water and mild soap solutions to remove pests.

Biologically Derived Pesticides and Controls

Remember, your “pests” are somebody else’s lunch! Biological controls include:

- living organisms such as insects, nematodes, EM’s (effective microorganisms) and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), which benefits plant production by feeding on pest populations and/or increasing plant resistance to damage from insects and disease; and
- pest predators and beneficial creatures (such as ladybugs, honeybees, mason bees, ground beetles, spiders, birds and frogs) work the soil, eat pests and pollinate your plants, flowers and fruit trees. Many of these beneficial creatures are destroyed or damaged due to chemical pesticides.

Pesticides and Products

The following is a basic list of what is, and what is not, permitted under the Bylaw. For a complete list of permitted products, please visit the City’s website.

Permitted

- acetic acid (vinegar)
- biological agents such as Bt (*Bacillus Thuringiensis*) and nematodes
- borax
- corn gluten meal
- diatomaceous earth (silicon dioxide)
- fatty acids
- ferric or ferrous phosphates
- soaps
- mineral oil (dormant or horticultural oil)
- pyrethrum or pyrethrins
- sulphur (lime sulphur and other sulphur compounds)

Not Permitted

- 2,4-D - herbicide used in weed and feed type products
- Diacamba - herbicide used in weed control products
- Mecoprop (MCP) - herbicide used in weed control
- Glyphosate - herbicide broad spectrum
- Malathion - insecticide
- Carbaryl - insecticide and plant growth regulator



Go Natural

GO PESTICIDE FREE

For Healthy Lawns and Gardens



Relax.
I'm just a weed.

The City of
Nanaimo's new
**PESTICIDE
USE BYLAW
NO. 7102**

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www.nanaimo.ca/goto/pesticidefree

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