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## Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban What the Specialty Turf Industry Needs to Know

Ontario's cosmetic pesticides ban will take effect April 22, 2009. The requirements of the ban are detailed in Ontario Regulation 63/09 made under the Pesticides Act, which has been amended by the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, 2008.

The ban is part of the McGuinty government's toxics reduction strategy to reduce pollution and protect families from toxic chemicals.

There are 11 classes\* of pesticides in Ontario Regulation 63/09 and these, the regulation and the act are available on the Ministry of the Environment's web site at [www.Ontario.ca/pesticideban](http://www.Ontario.ca/pesticideban). Pesticide products with controlled sales or banned sales are listed in Classes 7 and 8, respectively. Pesticide ingredients banned for use are listed in Class 9.

The ban contains exceptions for public health and safety (including the protection of public works structures), golf courses, specialty turf, specified sports fields, arboriculture and to protect natural resources, if certain conditions are met. There are also exceptions for agriculture, forestry, research and scientific purposes, and uses of pesticides for structural exterminations (e.g., in and around homes to control insects) and uses of pesticides required by other legislation.

The provincial ban supersedes local municipal pesticides bylaws to create one clear, transparent and understandable set of rules across the province.

### Exception with Conditions for Specialty Turf

An exception under the ban is provided only for specialty turf used for lawn bowling, cricket, lawn tennis or croquet and only if it is the same kind of turf that is used on golf course greens (i.e., creeping bent grass). Areas around the specialty turf including lawns and gardens are not excepted under the ban.

Pesticides may be applied to specialty turf by a licensed exterminator who is certified by a Director-approved integrated pest management (IPM) body. The licensed exterminator is responsible for ensuring their certificate or a copy of their certificate issued by the approved IPM body is located on their person or at the extermination site.

The owner or operator of the specialty turf is responsible for ensuring an annual report is prepared that summarizes all pesticide use on specialty turf and includes the following information:

- The name and quantity of each pesticide active ingredient used
- The reason for using each pesticide and the method of use
- The location of all application areas
- An explanation of how the use of the pesticide ingredients on specialty turf will be minimized in the future
- The name, contact information, and signature of the person who is certified in IPM.

*Note: All classes are subject to change as newly registered pesticides are classified for sale and use in Ontario, or as products are reclassified or declassified.*

A copy of this report must be kept on the operations property for at least five years after it has been prepared, and must be made available to any member of the public upon request.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

The ministry manages its approach to compliance and enforcement through education and outreach, inspections, response to incidents, voluntary abatement, orders, tickets and prosecutions. In the case of the pesticides ban, the ministry will focus its initial efforts on education when responding to reports of suspected non-compliance. Questions or non-compliance reports should be directed to a ministry district office during regular business hours (look in the Blue Pages in your telephone directory or see a listing on the ministry's web site at [www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/about/org/index.php#4](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/about/org/index.php#4)). After business hours call the ministry's Pollution Hotline at 1-866-MOE-TIPS (1-866-663-8477).

#### **For more information:**

Questions about the ban can be directed to the Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923 or 416-325-4000.

Several fact sheets are available on the ministry's website for specific audiences, as well as a general fact sheet about the regulation and suggestions on caring for lawns and gardens with greener alternatives.