

**ONTARIO LAWNS AND GARDENS TO GO GREEN***McGuinty Government Plans Ban on Cosmetic Pesticides***NEWS**

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Ontario is moving to reduce exposure to toxic chemicals by banning the sale and cosmetic use of pesticides.

Legislation to be introduced today would make Ontario's pesticide rules among the toughest in North America. It would also replace a variety of municipal by-laws in place across the province.

Studies by public health experts are showing growing evidence of the potential health risk of pesticides, particularly for children.

The ban would likely take effect next spring. It wouldn't affect pesticides used for farming or forestry. Golf courses would still be able to use pesticides, but must meet certain conditions to minimize environmental impacts. Pesticides would still be used for health and safety, such as controlling mosquitoes, which can carry diseases like West Nile Virus.

**QUOTES**

"Our generation is becoming more and more aware of the potential risks in our environment, not only to our health, but to our children's health. That's why we're taking action on behalf of the next generation of Ontarians, and reducing their exposure to chemicals," said Premier Dalton McGuinty.

"Many municipalities have already shown leadership in banning or restricting cosmetic-use pesticides. We're extending that protection to all families wherever they live," said Environment Minister John Gerretsen.

**QUICK FACTS**

- Over 44 per cent of Ontarians already live in a municipality where the cosmetic use of pesticides is banned.
- Groups such as the Ontario College of Family Physicians and the Canadian Cancer Society have been calling for a ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides as a prudent measure to protect our families' health.

**LEARN MORE**

Read more about the legislation and [get tips](#) on how to keep your lawn and garden healthy and chemical-free.