

PESTICIDE USE SURVEY OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES



During the spring of this year, the Urban Use Committee of the Crop Protection Institute conducted a survey by mail of municipalities in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec in order to determine their current usage of pesticides, their knowledge and use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs, and their awareness of the Crop Protection Institute as an information provider with respect to pesticide issues.

Based on 87 completed questionnaires, which represented a response rate of 15%, these were the survey's major findings:

- Herbicides and insecticides were the most widely used pest control tools (used by 86% and 85% of those who responded), followed by fungicide (58%) and other biological controls (30%). The use of all types of pest control tools increased with the size of the municipality. Only 3% of the respondents did not use pesticides, and the majority of these were from smaller municipalities with populations of under 30,000.
- Most respondents acknowledged that they had been under pressure over the past five years to explain their use of pesticides. This was particularly the case for the larger municipalities - those with over 100,000 people. The most common response to the pressure was to reduce the use of pesticides.
- All respondents from municipalities of over 100,000 were aware of Integrated Pest Management, compared to 90% from municipalities of 30,000 to 100,000, and 62% from centres under 30,000.
- Familiarity with the Crop Protection Institute was 33% overall. However this awareness increased with the size of the municipality - 14% for centres under 30,000, 42% for centres of 30,000

to 100,000 and 53% for those of 100,000 or more.

The survey revealed that in smaller centres the responsibility for making final decisions was more likely to rest with the respondent (i.e. Park Superintendent, Groundskeeper, etc.), while in the larger centres, Council and management were more apt to be involved in the decision making.

When asked whether municipal, provincial or federal regulations and/or legislation were having an impact on their pesticide management practices, three-quarters of Ontario respondents, two-thirds of Quebec respondents and 43% of those in B.C. answered in the affirmative. Again, the likelihood of a positive reply increased with the size of the respondent's municipality. 54% of those from centres under 30,000 said yes, compared to 74% of those from centres of 100,000.

PRESSURE OVER PESTICIDE USE

While all respondents agreed that they had been under pressure over the past five years to explain their use of pesticides, the pressure was greater in larger municipalities - and consequently, greater in Ontario than the other two provinces.

Proportion of Respondents Under Pressure to Explain Use of Pesticides in Past 5 Years.

Under 30,000 (n=35)	46%
30,000 to 100,000 (n=31)	65%
Over 100,000 (n=19)	90%

Person or Body Responsible for Final Pesticide Decision by Size of Municipality

Decision made by	Size of Municipality		
	Under 30,000 (n=33)	30,000 to 100,000 (n=28)	Over 100,000 (n=18)
Park Superintendent	82%	39%	39%
Council	27%	25%	44%
Director of Parks	12%	43%	33%

AWARENESS OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

As defined by the Urban Use Committee of the Crop Protection Institute, Integrated Pest Management is "the use of multiple tactics in a compatible manner to maintain pest damage below economic injury level while providing protection against hazards to humans, animals, plants and the environment (multiple tactics defined as including the integrated use of cultural practices, plant host resistance, and pesticides)."

Those respondents who indicated that they were aware of IPM were able to explain the use of pesticides, and encompassed a variety of methods including cultural and biological controls. Most commonly, they thought that pesticides were utilized to control situations that had not responded to other methods.

**AWARENESS OF THE CROP PROTECTION
INSTITUTE AS A SOURCE OF PESTICIDE
INFORMATION**

Of the 29 respondents who were aware of the institute, 12 became familiar with it at a seminar, the rest cited mailings, pamphlets, publications, or membership in other organizations as their method of introduction.

When asked how the Institute could assist them with respect to pesticide issues, the most common response was to provide information regarding new products and methods. The following shows the percentage of respondents desiring information in specific topic areas:

IPM	85%
Environmental impact/rate	82%
New developments	80%
Safe handling/storage/use	54%
Human toxicology	53%
Pesticide registration	34%

The respondents indicated their preference for information presented in booklets, followed by seminars and newsletters.

Workshops were, relatively speaking, the least preferred format. As a general trend, interest in receiving information in all categories increased with the size of the municipality, and was higher among those who were familiar with the Crop Protection Institute, Integrated Pest Management, and who had, or were considering, an IPM program.

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The lighter side of the lawn

The Wonders of duct tape

There was a time in my life when I did not know about duct tape. I slaved over repairs with string and sticky glue. There was a time when I felt less than competent in the home and auto repair department. Not anymore. I've discovered duct tape, the miracle silver mender — the crazy glue of the adhesive tape world.

I first learned about duct tape during a white water canoe course. The instructors demonstrated the use of duct tape after a rock leapt in front of a canoe. They patched the hole and we continued leak-free down the river. I was amazed.

New converts to duct tape often call it "duck" tape. No need to be embarrassed. How would you know that heating ducts get taped with the same stuff that mends canoes?

Since my initiation, I've learned to use duct tape to repair just about anything. Here's a list of my recent efforts:

- patching rain gear, coats and camping equipment
- repairing cracked plastic fridge shelves
- covering rust holes in vehicles
- repairing books

The list could go on and on. Make sure the surface is clean and dry. Then plaster on the tape. It's that easy. If it's an outdoor repair, you'll have to replace the tape every year or so.

- From *Lost Whole Moose Catalogue*



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