OTTAWA, February 21 – Health Canada’s Pest Management Regu-
latory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that “the use of 2,4-D and
its end-use products to treat lawns and turf does not entail an unacceptable risk of
harm to human health or the environment.” After examining the combined risk from
exposure through food and residential uses, the PMRA also determined the poten-
tial exposure for children and adults contact with treated residential lawns and golf
courses was within acceptable standards.

These are the findings in the draft health and environmental risk assessments for the
herbicide 2,4-D released by the PMRA for public comment.

“The PMRA’s assessment of the scientific database reinforces a growing number
of regulatory decisions and expert reviews

that conclude the use of 2,4-D, while pro-
tecting food production and the environ-
ment, does not present a risk to human
health,” stated Larry Hammond, Technical
Chair of the Industry Task Force II on
2,4-D Research Data. “The PMRA’s find-
ings bolster the earlier decisions of au-
thorities such as the World Health
Organization, European Commission and
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
and recent studies by the U.S. National
Cancer Institute.”

The PMRA also released key elements
of a report by an independent expert Sci-
ence Advisory Panel. Comprised of five
well-regarded experts, the Science Advi-
sory Panel concurred with the general
thrust of the PMRA evaluation. The pub-
lication of the Proposed Acceptability for
Continuing Registration document begins

the public comment stage of the PMRA’s
re-evaluation program of 2,4-D. Copies of
the re-evaluation document and notice of
the public comment period may be ob-
tained at: http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/
english/pubs/pacr-e.html. Further informa-
tion on 2,4-D can be obtained at 1-800-
345-5109, www.24d.org, info@24d.org.