

# Bill 64: The Proposed Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act

The proposed Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act is intended to ban both the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes through amendments to the Pesticides Act. Originally announced by Premier Dalton McGuinty that it would not supersede municipal by-laws, that position was later reversed and the clear intent of the Bill is to supersede all existing municipal bylaws of a similar nature.

Specific exemptions to the use prohibition currently include uses related to golf courses, as long as prescribed conditions have been met; uses related to agriculture; uses related to forestry; uses related to the promotion of public health or safety; and other uses prescribed in regulation.

Included in the bill is the review of some 200 active ingredients now registered for use in Ontario for lawn, garden and tree use. In spite of Health Canada's recent announcement to re-register 2,4-D, the product remains on the list for non-use. That may or may not change while the government reviews the contents of the bill.

After the announcement earlier this winter, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) received approximately 6,000 submissions through their EBR posting up until February 17. Since then, numerous stakeholders' meetings were held with MOE staff, including with the STA. The position statement put forward by the STA reiterated the importance of maintaining quality turf for fields of all classifications, and the need for tools to battle infestations

that affect safety and playability. It was also proposed that any pesticide applications made would be done via the use of IPM accredited agents under strict provincial control and regulation.

Just recently, the bill received 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and was sent to Committee for a one day hearing, held June 9. From there, further consideration will be given to the bill's contents before 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading.

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**Effectiveness of the bioherbicide Sarritor.** Be sure to read Dr. Alan Watson's article on pages 16-17.

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Implementation and enforcement measures will focus on outreach and education efforts on the use of pesticide alternatives on lawns, gardens, parks and school yards. More than \$10 million over the next four years has been allocated in support of the government's plan to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides. Education and outreach programs will be developed with stakeholder groups to further enhance the government's ability to reach all sectors of the Ontario public.

Enforcement will likely be a last resort but will remain with the MOE as is currently in effect.

The goal of the government is to have the Bill passed and implemented by the spring of 2009. Stay tuned for further updates as they become available.

— Ken Pavely, *Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.*



## Industry News

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