

# SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for safe, natural sports turf

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## Oshawa's Pest Management Plan

DECREASING PESTICIDES AND THE NEED TO PASS RESTRICTIVE BY-LAWS

In January 2003, the City of Oshawa Council approved a Pest Management Plan (PMP) to be phased in over a five year period, 2003-2007. The main goal of the program is to eliminate the use of pesticides within the City of Oshawa while maintaining quality turf.

### Pest Management Plan

The Pest Management Plan was a response to the pressure of other municipalities passing pesticide by-laws and includes both Integrated Pest Management and Plant Health Care. The plan does not ban the use of pesticides; it incorporates the use of all other alternatives first and uses pesticides only if pests surpass a predetermined treatment threshold. It was believed that a ban is a short lived solution which could result in poor quality and unhealthy turf. Pests are defined as a population of species that have a detrimental

effect on the health, productivity and aesthetic characteristics of the landscape. The treatment threshold is the stage when a pest population should be controlled to prevent pest numbers from reaching levels that will cause unacceptable amounts of injury or damage to plant material. Using this method completely eliminates routine spraying of pesticides and decreases the chance of pest populations developing chemical resistance.

### Budget and Advantages

The initial establishment and capital costs associated with developing an integrated pest management system are often high. Pest management programs however, support greater cost efficiency over time through the prevention of future problems. The overall quality of the landscape improves and costs related to pesticide use are reduced. A PMP provides... → page 8

Merry Christmas

