

# Agriculture & Pesticides Facts

## REGULATION OF PESTICIDES IN CANADA

Responsibility for regulating the sale, transportation and use of pesticides in Canada is shared among the federal and provincial governments.

### FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada has the mandate **“to protect human health and safety and the environment by minimizing risks associated with pesticides while providing Canadians access to the pest management tools and strategies they require.”**



192 Nicklin Road  
Guelph, ON N1H 7L5  
Tel: 519-837-1326 / Fax: 519-837-3209  
E-mail: [agcare@agcare.org](mailto:agcare@agcare.org)  
Website: [www.agcare.org](http://www.agcare.org)

Before a pesticide can be sold or used in Canada, it must be approved and registered by PMRA. A product is granted registration only when the scientific evidence demonstrates that it does not pose an unacceptable risk either to human health or to the environment.

### The scientists at PMRA take many factors into consideration when evaluating the acceptability of a pesticide:

- **toxicology** - potential short-term and long-term effects on the health of humans of various ages, and the levels of exposure to which humans can be exposed with negligible risk of harm
- **occupational exposure** - the level of exposure experienced by people through normal use of the pesticide
- **residues in foods** - the maximum acceptable level of pesticide residues in food, so that the exposure for all age groups is below the maximum acceptable daily limit
- **environment** - the behaviour and fate of the pesticide in the environment and the risk posed to non- target species
- **analytical** - product chemistry and the procedures for measuring residue levels
- **effectiveness** - the minimum rate at which the product consistently controls the target pests.

### Several federal acts contain provisions or regulations relating to the use or effects of pesticides:

- **Pest Control Products Act** - controls the sale and use of pesticides in Canada
- **Food and Drugs Act** - allows for the setting of maximum limits for pesticide residues in foods
- **Environmental Protection Act** - includes numerous provisions to protect the environment and human health from injury from pesticides
- **Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act** - controls the handling and transportation of hazardous products, including some pesticides
- **Fisheries Act** - prevents harmful substances, including pesticides, from being placed in water frequented by fish
- **Migratory Birds Convention Act** - prevents harmful substances, including pesticides, from being placed in water or any area frequented by migratory birds
- **Fertilizer Act** - requires registration of fertilizer-pesticide mixtures
- **Feeds Act** - prevents the contamination of livestock feeds.

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Provincial governments may impose additional requirements on the sale, use, storage, transportation and disposal of pesticides. Within Ontario, pesticides are regulated under the Ontario Pesticides Act and its Regulations. The Ministry of the Environment administers this act and is responsible for enforcing the regulations that ensure that pesticides are managed properly and safely in Ontario.

Ontario has a system of classifying pesticides that ensures that a pesticide is used only by people who need to use it and who know how to use it properly.

### All pesticides (including those available for home or garden use) are classified according to:

- their hazard to human health
- the extent to which they represent an environmental hazard
- their persistence in the environment
- their concentration as marketed
- their intended use (e.g., are they meant to be used only on farm crops?)

The more hazardous agricultural pesticides and those that are intended only for farm use may be purchased and used only by licensed applicators and farmers certified through the Ontario Pesticide Education Program.

## INTERNET RESOURCES:

### The Regulation of Pesticides in Canada (Pest Management Regulatory Agency)

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/fact/fs\\_pestreg-e.pdf](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/fact/fs_pestreg-e.pdf)

### Overview of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/pmra/pmra\\_overview-e.pdf](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/pdf/pmra/pmra_overview-e.pdf)

### How Pesticides are Regulated - Ontario Pesticide Education Program

<http://www.ridgetownc.on.ca/o pep/On-Line%20Tool/pdfGPSC/01-Regs.PDF>