

Pesticide Use

What are pesticides?

Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and any substance designed to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate unwanted organisms.

Pesticide use is generally no longer permitted on lawns and gardens in Colwood.

Pesticides cannot be confined. They move through air, land, and water, contributing to the cumulative chemical load absorbed by our natural environment.

The City Colwood values our community's unique location and environment, and recognizes the need to protect its natural assets, waterways, ecological habitats, and cultural heritage.

Common products NOT PERMITTED include Roundup, Weed n Feed, Killex. See the full list at Colwood.ca/Pesticides

This bylaw prohibits use of pesticides on:

- ▶ lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and other ornamental plants;

on properties including:

- ▶ single family homes, duplexes, townhouses, apartment buildings, and condominiums.

It does not apply to:

- ▶ Managing pests that transmit human disease;
- ▶ Pests inside buildings;
- ▶ Agriculture (farms or forestry);
- ▶ Commercial, institutional, or industrial properties.

Which pesticides CAN be used without a permit?

For a full list of permitted pesticides see Schedule A of the Colwood Pesticide Use Bylaw.

TO CONTROL WEEDS:

Iron based weed killers
Corn gluten meal
Acetic acid & fatty acid products

TO CONTROL MOSS:

Ferrous sulphate
Soaps
Zinc Strips

TO CONTROL INSECTS:

Pyrethrins
Resmethrin
Boric Acid
Btk, Bti, Spinosad
Horticultural oil
Lime Sulphur or Sulphur
Ferric phosphate

How is the Pesticide Bylaw enforced?

Using pesticides in contravention of this bylaw may result in a fine up to \$50,000.

Each day that an offence continues or exists constitutes a separate offence.

How can I report an offence?

If you are concerned about the possible use of pesticides in a residential area of Colwood, contact Bylaw Services at 250-478-5999.

More information about Pesticide Use and recommended alternatives is available on the Colwood website at www.colwood.ca/PesticideUse.

Consider alternatives to pesticide use

Proper lawn & garden care

- Mow high, leave clippings, aerate, de-thatch to discourage weeds.
- Optimize soil composition, watering and drainage.
- Choose pest resistant plants and use a variety of plant species.
- Ensure spacing, pruning, thinning of plants
- Deadhead flowers and seeds, apply mulch or landscape fabric

Get physical

- Pull weeds by hand or tools.
- Pour boiling water on cut stalks of persistent weeds like thistles.
- Mulch between plants and spread cardboard between garden rows.
- Hand pick insects from plants.
- Forcefully spray insects with water.
- Reduce hiding spots like pots, boards and other objects.
- Remove rodent attractants.

Attract helpers

- Ladybugs can be purchased at garden centres and applied to plants to control aphids.
- Bird and bat boxes attract valuable insect-eaters.



The City of Colwood follows an Integrated Pest Management policy designed to eliminate the non-essential use of pesticides.

This includes a series of pest management evaluations, decisions, and controls consistent with the precautionary principle, and with Colwood's Official Community Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

These plans require Colwood to be a model steward, taking steps to restore and protect air, land, and water quality, and the biodiversity of natural areas and ecosystems to support a network of natural areas, open spaces, and urban forests.

When might pesticide use be permitted?

A permit may be considered for a pesticide if:

1. the infestation threatens a sensitive ecosystem;
2. the infestation includes invasive species or noxious weeds;
3. the infestation is likely to result in significant financial harm related to replacement or restoration of vegetation, damaged or destroyed landscaping, the loss of an amenity, and diminished property value.

How can a property owner apply for a permit?

Start by calling the City of Colwood Parks team at 250-474-4133.

Where can I find more information?

Visit www.colwood.ca/Pesticides for more information and to review the full bylaw and Integrated Pest Management Policy.