Government of Alberta

Information bulletin

Alberta

August 12, 2009

Government reminds Albertans of upcoming weed and feed ban

Edmonton... A province-wide ban on fertilizer-herbicide combination products comes into effect on January 1, 2010. First introduced in November 2008, the Government of Alberta is talking about the changes now to give Albertans plenty of time to arrange alternatives for next year.

Fertilizer-herbicide combination products are applied to an entire lawn surface, which results in the over-application of the chemical 2,4-D. The over-application of these products leads to an excess of the chemical in waterways downstream of urban areas at higher concentrations than found in rural areas.

The ban is aligned with the provincial *Water for Life* strategy and reinforces the Government of Alberta's commitment to protect and enhance Alberta's natural environment.

For more information, visit our Pesticide Management Sales website at http://environment.alberta.ca/2215.html or contact your local garden retailer about other weed control options.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Backgrounder

August 12, 2009

Fast facts about the ban on weed and feed

- Effective January 1, 2010 domestic fertilizer-herbicide combination products, commonly known as weed and feed, will no longer be available for sale or use in Alberta.
- The herbicide 2,4-D found in fertilizer-herbicide combination products is detected in more than 90 per cent of surface water samples downstream from urban areas at concentrations up to 10 times higher than rural sampling locations.
- Because fertilizer-herbicide combination products are applied to an entire lawn surface, the result is an over-application of the chemical 2,4-D. The chemical runs off lawns and eventually ends up in our rivers.
- Currently, the average amount of 2,4-D in Alberta's rivers and lakes is less than federal guideline thresholds. By taking action now, Alberta is making an effort to eliminate unwanted substances from our waterways.
- The ban will not impact farms or golf courses, as neither uses pre-formulated, combination products.
- The ban supports the Alberta government's provincial water strategy - *Water for Life*.

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