



# A Healthy, Pesticide-Free Yard and a Cleaner, Safer Environment

The Manitoba government is committed to creating a clean, safe environment for all to enjoy. To reduce the exposure of people and pets to potentially harmful chemicals, legislation is now in place that prohibits the use of synthetic chemical herbicides (pesticides used to control vegetation or weeds) for non-essential purposes on lawns, parks, playing fields and the grounds of schools, hospitals and child care centres. Use of these herbicides is also prohibited on the lawns of businesses and government offices. The regulations do not apply to agricultural and forestry operations or golf courses.

## What does it mean to me?

This means synthetic chemical herbicides can no longer be used to control the weeds on your lawn, sidewalk, driveway or patio. These products can still be used on gardens, shrubs and trees, and can also be used to control poisonous or invasive plants, such as poison ivy.

The legislation does allow the use of federally approved, non-conventional, low-risk products for weed control containing active ingredients such as iron chelate, acetic acid, and corn gluten meal. Always follow the instructions on the label when using these products, and avoid using home-made pesticides. For a list of approved products, visit: [www.manitoba.ca/pesticide-reduction](http://www.manitoba.ca/pesticide-reduction)

## How to have a beautiful lawn, the natural way

With regular maintenance, you can keep weeds under control and have a healthy, beautiful lawn.

- Hand pull weeds or use other mechanical weed control tools, before they flower and set seed in your lawn.
- Control weed growth through mowing. Mow to a height of 2.5 to three inches during spring and fall, and four inches during the hot summer months.
- Keep your lawnmower blade sharp, and cut your lawn when the lawn is dry.

- Aerate your lawn. Aeration punches holes throughout your lawn to let air, water and fertilizer in.
- Fertilize your lawn in the spring and/or fall, with slow release fertilizers. Or use compost.
- Overseed by spreading grass seed over your lawn, focusing on bare or thinning areas.
- In average weather, lawns get all the water they need from rainfall. During extended periods of heat or drought, water your lawn deeply and less often, about an inch of water per week. Watering in the morning is best. If you're not sure how much you've watered, use a rain gauge, available at most lawn and garden centres.

## Pesticide disposal

If you have leftover pesticides that are no longer approved for use, they can be safely disposed of at a Manitoba Product Care Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site. Call 1-888-772-9772 for more information.

Please do not dispose of unused pesticides or other chemicals in the trash or down the drain.

## Ask a lawn care provider

Need advice or assistance with your lawn and garden? Talk to an expert at a garden centre, landscaping or lawn care company. All lawn care providers in Manitoba must be trained, certified and licensed.

## Need more information?

For more information, including more healthy lawn care tips, please visit:

[www.manitoba.ca/pesticide-reduction](http://www.manitoba.ca/pesticide-reduction)

