Submission to the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
from the
Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides Inc (SNAP)
March 6, 2007

Prepared by Paule Hjertaas, President and spokesperson.

Unknown History of IPM committee

We would like to congratulate this committee and the city on their best accomplishment so far on the IPM approach: the web site on *Yard Smarts* and *Healthy Lawns*, even if is only at the 101 level! I cannot comment on the IPM tips as I have not seen or heard them.

Have you ever asked yourself whether City Council ever meant this IPM committee to accomplish anything?

Appointments
When the committee was formed, 5 people applied for the two public positions on the committee. Three of us were knowledgeable about alternatives to pesticides and had presented to the Parks and Rec. Committee and City Council requesting a bylaw. Mr Sellinger, I believe, also presented. Am I right Mr Sellinger? The other person who got appointed to this committee was a total unknown to all of us.

One position was also reserved for the pesticide industry. On Sept 27, 2006, Saskatchewan Council of Crop Life Canada wrote a letter to the mayor requesting that they appoint a representative on this IPM committee, request that was forwarded to this committee for recommendation on Dec 18, 2006. No answer of the committee was in the package. Is Mr Feindel (Bayer Crop Science) an appointee of Crop Life then?

There are two other types of people appointed to this committee. Those involved in pest and weed control issues as practitioners, and many of you that probably want to see a pesticide reduction, but don't necessarily know enough to contribute to the technical discussions.

The only party not represented on this committee are people knowledgeable about real alternatives, like the Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides Inc. (SNAP). Perhaps we should also write to the mayor and request that we get to appoint the two members of the public on this committee to at least inject some knowledge and a bit of a questioning spirit among you!

Mandate

To provide *comments and advice* to City Administration on technical matters. To me it presupposes knowledge not only of current methods of control but also of less toxic ones. Which one of you is really trained in this alternative knowledge?

Oops, let's not forget the most important part: to develop an education program to reduce pesticide use "in conjunction with industry."

Definition of IPM
The original definition of IPM includes two parts not inherent to the definition used by the pesticide industry, and most governments.

1. It is designed to achieve elimination or reduction in pesticide use, especially higher risk ones.
2. In your definition, chemicals are considered on an equal footing with other methods of pest control such as vacuuming or corn gluten, rather than being used **as a last resort.**

Results
City use of pesticides has mostly shown no reduction in the last 3 years. I have not talked to the administration enough to understand whether the few reductions we see in 2006 depend on a change of direction, use of alternative methods, or just that the year was not particularly suitable to certain types of weeds, insects or diseases.

Since the IPM committee exists, we have seen increased use in many pesticides

- Increased glyphosate use
- increased chlorpyrifos use (Dursban)
- d-trans-allethrin for wasps
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and a move from less toxic to more toxic.

- Insecticidal soap to insecticidal soap with pyrethrins
- Bti to methoprene for mosquito control

Decreases:
- no picloram (a real residual baddy), imazapyr or clopyralid
- decrease in d-trans-allethrin for ants
- no Avitrol (to kill pigeons)
- no metsulforon methyl (misused in 2004)

Switches:
- Treflan seems to have been replaced by Casoron G4, about which I can't find anything at all on the PMRA site March 6, 2007.
- some switches in golf course fungicides but not much real reduction.

A question:
What was used on crusher dust pathways and surfaces throughout parks? Not glyphosate. Where does it appear if the 2006 pesticide use?

What would you say? Has IPM achieved any positive results in city use of pesticides?
The numbers say NO. Similar results are why the province of Quebec rejected IPM in favour of a Pesticide Code.

The news are a bit better on the homeowner front.

Comments on 2006 Pesticide Use Telephone Survey (Nov 2006)

- Pesticide do not have to be classified the # 1 issue to be important to people. It is ironic that air quality was the #1 concern, and that pesticides contribute to lower air quality whether people know it or not.

The writing is on the wall:
- A majority is concerned about impact of pesticides on health
- "a large % of Reginans doing yard work is aware of alternatives to pesticides"
- The use of pesticides seems to have declined.
- 91% of those doing yard work would use equally effective alternatives if they were available. (and many are!)
- a majority also want the city to educate about proper use of pesticides and alternatives to pesticides. (meaning they want "independent advice")

One big issue is that most get their alternative information, and likely products, from the Internet.
Why?

I recommend they get their info and products on the Internet because SK has <u>NO license or training requirement</u> for anyone in the domestic pesticide business i.e. anyone can sell you poisons, but are not required to know anything about them.

The truth is that the public can get better info from independent sites on the Internet, and also product containers uncontaminated by being stored between bottles or bags of chemicals. They can find alternative products more easily on the Internet than in a garden centre. They don't have to figure out which product is the safe one in the mess of chemicals they are hidden amongst in garden centers. Perhaps garden centers would find it valuable to be told of this survey to recapture their share of the market. It may encourage them to offer alternative products, display them separately and send staff for training on alternatives and conventional products.

What SNAP is doing
Paule Hjertaas is currently in the middle of a cheap Internet class on natural land care by a OCIA certified land care manager in charge of all the public parks and playing fields with the town of Marblehead (US). They do it at a municipal level by starting with the advice you give on your own site: look at drainage, pH and

organic matter. All three are exceedingly important for keeping turf weed free. You can also add the importance of the proper micro-organisms in soil to control both insects and diseases.

Paule Hjertaas has also given an organic gardening class for the last 4 years, with another planned for Regina on April 18, 2007.

SNAP has a web site and display and some other programs.

All our efforts are aimed at empowering people with the real information they need to break the pesticide habit.

SNAP would welcome the opportunity to share our knowledge with city personnel and any of you who is interested.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any question.

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A few Resources:

Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides Inc www.snapinfo.ca
lots of general info and links to specific topics.

Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management (2/5/07) Beyond Pesticides has created a new database tool to provide decision makers, practitioners and activists with easier access to information on pesticide hazards and safe pest management
http://www.beyondpesticides.org/gateway/about.htm

Organic Land Care Training for Municipalities
http://www.beyondpesticides.org/pesticidefreelawns/training/index.htm

Organic Gardening Classes for individuals
This year, I am giving the class in Regina, Swift Current and Montmartre, and an organic gardening presentation at the Home and Garden Show in Assiniboia. Below is the Regina information. Advertising this class on your web site would be useful.

Organic Gardening Class
1. Age group: teens-adults

2. Program Title: Gardening: Tips to Garden Organically

3. Age range: 16 and up

4. Day(s) of week: Wednesday
5. Start and end date: April 18, 2007
6. Program start time and end time: 7-9:30 pm
7. Location: St-Pius school, 3301 Garnet St
8. Cost of program: $5.00 for class notes
9. Additional information:

Pre-register by email reginaecoliving@yahoo.ca by mentioning the class, date and personal information.

Class Description

Interested in pesticide-free gardening that is healthier for children, pets, and the environment?

Come out for an evening with experienced gardener Paule Hjertaas from the Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides Inc. (SNAP).

Topics: introduction to non-toxic gardening: prevention, good books, products and where to get them, how and when to use them; natural fertilizers, great vegetable varieties she uses, as well as techniques such as planting vegetable beds that work in Saskatchewan's short season. If the weather cooperates, there will also be a demonstration of an eco-weeder.

Pre-register by email reginaecoliving@yahoo.ca by mentioning the class, date and personal information

Sponsored by the Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides Inc. (SNAP), Regina Eco-Living and South Zone Community Gardens

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Sheep's Fescue for lawns. One experienced organic lawn care company in Calgary recommends it. "It doesn't need mowing - only grows 8 inches high and then lays down in swirls. Grows against houses where no other grass usually grows and handles heavy traffic. Photos of what it looks like can be found at www.wildflowerfarm.com. Their eco-lawn is a mix of fescues - I think to save money - Sheep's fescue is expensive and worth it. I don't like to refer people to this site much as they make overseeding sound hard and recommend killing all your old grass with Roundup first! I hope to soon have good photos on our web-site listed below." (Laureen Rama 1-800-491-7738)

The Soil FoodWeb Lab is in Vulcan, AB. 1-403-485-6981. www.soilfoodweb.ca. Lab to test soil life organisms, the basis of any good lawn care.

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Relevant Integrated Vegetation Management references from BIRC, Bio-Integral Resourced Center, California. http://www.birc.org/

Integrated Control of Leafy Spurge Vol XX no 7, July 1998

Integrated Management of Canada Thistle vol XXII no 9 Sept 2000

Managing Blooming Algae vol XVIII no 7 July 1996

Sustainable Urban Landscapes and Integrated Pest Management vol XXVI no7-8 Aug 2004

Integrated Vegetation Management Guide Technical Bulletin

Latest Directory of Least-Toxic Pest Control Products. (1/Year)
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From NCAP http://www.pesticide.org/factsheets.html

- Natural ant control
- Natural yellowjacket control