

RE: Loblaws pesticide-free gardening commitment

Date:
Thu, 12 May 2005 11:21:20 -0400
From:
"Peter Cantley (LCL)" <pcantle@ngco.com>

I will work on the comparison list and forward to you in the next while.
Decisions on Western Canada's products are made primarily based on sales success from previous years. New products are added and trialed in stores as they come along.
I'd be interested in hearing from you what your suggestions would be for items that we could add.
Please forward them to me at your convenience.

Thanks,
Peter
--

-----Original Message-----

From: Dale & Paule Hjertaas
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2005 10:58 AM
To: Peter Cantley (LCL)
Cc: Guy Cameron (LCL)
Subject: **Re: Loblaws pesticide-free gardening commitment**

Dear Mr Cantley,

Thank you for your promise of a larger variety of natural products in Saskatchewan next year.

1.

I would appreciate getting an idea of the products Loblaws stores carry down East, and what Superstore and Extra Foods carry here, for comparison.

2.

I was wondering how the decision on what products to carry in your Western stores are made. Perhaps our group could have some input on the products we feel would be important to carry?

Sincerely yours,

Paule Hjertaas,
Spokesperson, Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides Inc
Regina, SK

RE: Loblaws pesticide-free gardening commitment
Date:
Mon, 09 May 2005 12:12:35 -0400
From:
"Peter Cantley (LCL)" <pcantle@ngco.com>

Thanks for your interest in our pesticide-free gardening products.

Currently the Real Canadian Superstores and Extra Foods in western Canada carry only a limited number of these items. By next spring we will be adding more to their lineup.

Thanks again, and if I can be of further help, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Peter Cantley
VP Floral & Garden
Loblaw Companies Limited

-----Original Message-----

From: Dale & Paule Hjertaas
Sent: Saturday, May 07, 2005 12:20 PM
To: Peter Cantley (LCL); Guy Cameron (LCL)
Subject: Loblaws pesticide-free gardening commitment

Dear Sirs,

I just read the article below. It is great that Loblaws keeps its commitment to pesticide-free gardening.

I have been able to obtain TurfMaize in a major store in Regina last year so this, at least, can be carried by the store.

What I want to talk to you about, is the low availability of natural products in Loblaws affiliated stores in Saskatchewan. Over the last 2 years, Extra Foods has not carried any product at all, and the few times last May when I tried to obtain Tanglefoot, cat repellent and a few other natural products at Superstore, they just weren't there. The staff was also totally ignorant even of the name of the products. I was not impressed.

I did manage to obtain some of what I needed through local nurseries and the rest I got by mail order this year.

I would like to understand from you whether your commitment to natural products stops West at the Ontario border, or whether it is limited to stores with the Loblaws name on it.

People in Saskatchewan, and indeed other Western provinces, are becoming aware of the problems of pesticides and looking for alternatives which are not yet locally available. Can we count on Loblaws to start carrying a full line of alternatives products in its western associated stores as well? If so, when can we expect it?

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Thank you for your attention,

Paule Hjertaas
Spokesperson, Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides Inc
Regina, SK

--

Original article
Ottawa - Pesticide ban in works
Date:

Fri, 06 May 2005 06:51:00 -0400

Loblaws Still Committed to Pesticide-Free Gardening

Reports have been coming in from across the country that Scott's Weed and Feed products are appearing on Loblaws' shelves. Don't panic. Loblaws are NOT switching to the dark side. In fact, this development can be attributed directly to the CFIA & PMRA and Canada's flawed registration process for least toxic pesticide alternatives.

Loblaw Companies Limited is very committed to pesticide-free gardening. All of Loblaws spray pesticides are Safer's products we do not carry any other garden pesticides. Loblaws does not carry Round-up or similar chemical products. Instead they carry an organic alternative under the brand name of PC Weed Controller.

However, Loblaws has been frustrated over the past three years with the lack of support from the PMRA and the CFIA to register organic pesticide alternatives. After more than 3 years of applications before the PMRA, they have not yet been able to even register their PC Corn Gluten as a weed seed preventer.

In 2005, a VERY small number of bags of Scott's Weed and Feed (less than 2 - 3% of all fertilizers), have been stocked to satisfy the consumer demand for this type of product. Loblaws will not promote or advertise this product.

I would caution against criticizing Loblaws over this matter. Rather, it would be more prudent to direct criticism at the CFIA & PMRA for stalling on registration of safer alternatives. The application of 'weed and feed' products in itself is an issue as well but this case demonstrates that the government's priorities need to be realigned toward protecting the public interest.

If you have further questions contact:

Peter Cantley
pcantle@ngco.com

Guy Cameron
gucamer@ngco.com

=====