

GET READY FOR *new* PESTICIDE *rules*

Beginning April 1, 2012 the new rules will also apply to **ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS, FLOWERS, AND TREES.**

These rules are contained in two documents:

- **Non-essential Pesticides Control Act**
- **Exceptions to Prohibitions on Non-essential Pesticides Regulations**

The new rules are important to reduce risks to our families and to protect our environment.



These new rules apply to everyone:

- **residential** – homes, apartments, and condos
- **commercial** – businesses and cemeteries
- **government** – parks and office buildings
- **institutional** – schools, hospitals, long-term care homes, and recreation centres

Many lower-risk pesticides will still be allowed and available on store shelves. For the list of allowable pesticides, go to

gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/Allowed.List.Registered.Examples.pdf

Remember only certain pesticides may be used on **LAWNS.**

EXCEPTIONS

You will still be allowed to use pesticides that are **NOT** on the allowable list to get rid of pests or plants that can harm people or animals, such as: **European fire ants, wasps, poison ivy, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed.**

These pesticides are sold by retailers certified by Nova Scotia Environment and must be kept behind the counter. Remember, there may be allowable pesticides or non-chemical means that will take care of the pest problems.

Certified retailers will tell you

- the best way to control pests and weeds on your property
- the right way to use a pesticide so that it does the job
- the legal uses of the pesticide
- the importance of reading and following the directions on the label

The new rules do **NOT** apply to

- food grown on farms
- insects in your home and at home
- mice, rats, or other rodents
- forests
- fleas on pets
- golf courses
- indoor plants

CONTACT US



For more information on pesticide use in Nova Scotia, go to gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/non-essential.pesticides.asp
e-mail non-essential-pesticides@gov.ns.ca,
or call **1-855-455-4034**

**NEW
PESTICIDE
RULES ON BACK**

YOUR GUIDE TO *healthy plants* WITHOUT PESTICIDES



IT'S *only* A DANDELION



YOU *can* KEEP YOUR PLANTS HEALTHY *without* PESTICIDES

Preventing Pests in the Home Garden

At one time or another most home garden plants are affected by insects or diseases. The key to successful gardening is to take steps to prevent problems. It's also important to know which insects and diseases are real problems, and check your plants regularly to see if pests are building up.

Whether you have a lawn, annual flowers, perennial landscape plants, home vegetable garden or fruit trees and bushes the following general gardening tips will help keep your garden healthy and problem-free.



Choose the right plants for the conditions in your garden.

- Select sun-loving plants for hot dry sites
- Shade-loving plants for shady areas and heavily wooded lots
- Choose plants that are resistant or tolerant to local pest problems
- Try growing native plants, they are well adapted to Nova Scotia's climate
- Your local nursery or garden centre staff can help you with this

Start with good quality and healthy plants.

- Bargain plants are not a bargain if they have been mistreated
- Don't buy plants that look wilted, damaged or unhealthy

Keep plants healthy.

- Healthy plants can resist attack from insects and diseases and compete better with weeds
- Keep plants healthy by providing good growing conditions
- Plants need about 2.5 cm (1 inch) of water per week and a little fertilizer
- Compost, well rotted manure or organic fertilizers help build the soil

Keep weeds in check.

- Weeds compete with the lawn and garden plants for light, water and nutrients
- Prevent garden weeds by mulching the garden surface
- Mulch with bark, straw, hay or other organic material
- Mulching also helps conserve soil moisture

Practice good "garden keeping"

- Stop plant diseases from spreading by removing damaged plants and plant parts when you see them
- Don't put the diseased plants in your backyard compost pile; home composters are not hot enough to kill disease causing organisms
- Diseased plants and weeds that have gone to seed should be placed in your green cart
- In the fall, do a thorough garden clean-up to get rid of overwintering insects and disease causing organisms

QUICK TIPS

- Select the right plant for the right location
- Plant native species
- Avoid plants with pest problems
- Increase the diversity of your plantings
- Plant at proper depth in good quality soil
- Fertilize, water and mulch