

Attention News Editors:

Urban Pest Management Council of Canada supports environmental study

TORONTO, Dec. 19 /CNW/ - The Urban Pest Management Council of Canada (UPMC) supports observations in the report from Environment Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto, Works and Emergency Services. The study, relating to pesticide concentrations in the Don and Humber River Watersheds, notes the value of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods and the proper pesticide use.

"These approaches, along with public awareness and education, are echoed in UPMC's ongoing efforts to protect the health and environment of Canadians," says Lorne Hepworth, UPMC executive director.

The report also states that modern lawn care pesticides are generally non-persistent and non bio-accumulative and that there is very little run-off into urban waters from pesticide applications in well-maintained grass, even during heavy rains. And in those instances where pesticides were detected in the rivers, in only 0.01 per cent of the analyses, did they exceed the government's conservative thresholds to protect aquatic life. The report concluded that this was not likely to have an effect on the ecosystem.

The Integrated Pest Management approach helps ensure a healthy lawn by using the right tool, at the right time, in the right way. The benefits from a well-maintained lawn include absorbing pollutants from the air and reducing noise in busy urban centres and limiting the environmental and economic damage that can be caused by insects, weeds and plant diseases. A ban or reduction of pest controls products is not necessary and in fact, counterproductive to the protection of the environment, says Hepworth.

It's also important to note that the federal government regulates all pest control products used in public health, urban landscapes and household applications in Canada, he says. Only products that pose no unacceptable risks to health and the environment are registered by Health Canada.

UPMC represents the manufacturers and distributors of urban pest control products. It is involved in all aspects of industry-wide and public education, communication, stewardship, legislation and regulation appropriate to pest management in the urban environment. The Council is dedicated to the protection of community health and the environment.

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