

Monitor carefully!

It's important to catch disease problems before they get out of hand. Look for chewed, stained or discoloured leaves, misshapen shoots and leaf spots. Gently turning over the soil will dislodge weeds. Pick up 'green' litter (fallen leaves and trimmings) as pests love to nest there. Using a natural cleaner, disinfect pruning shears, trowels, hoes and other tools to get rid of bacteria, viruses and fungal spores.

What's okay to use on your lawn and garden?

Exemptions do exist under the bylaw and examples include:

- Certain Horticulture Oils
- Soaps
- Acetic Acid (Vinegar)
- Diatomaceous Earth
- Corn Gluten Meal
- Nematodes

For a complete list of alternatives to traditional pesticides for addressing common pest issues, visit www.corp.delta.bc.ca/pesticides

Read and carefully follow instructions for dosages, application methods and treatment intervals. If you use a lawn and garden care service, be sure they are accredited or offer a pesticide-free program.

What's not okay?

Common prohibited ingredients include:

- 2,4-D
- Mecoprop
- Dicamba
- Benomyl
- Bendiocarb
- Chlorothalonil
- Glyphosate
- Carbaryl
- Quintozene

How can I get more information?

To view the pesticide use control bylaw visit www.corp.delta.bc.ca/pesticides

A series of free workshops demonstrating sustainable gardening practices including composting, organic gardening and natural pest control are held at the McKittrick Garden during the spring and summer. Check Delta's website for information on these workshops or contact the Office of Climate Action & Environment.

The Earthwise Society also provides workshops and events on the subject of natural gardening and lawn care. Visit www.earthwisesociety.bc.ca for more information.

If you wish to hire an eco-sensitive landscaper to help maintain your lawn and garden, visit the PlantHealthBC website for a listing of landscape professionals with pest management accreditation at www.PlantHealthBC.ca

For any other inquiries please e-mail the Office of Climate Action & Environment at cae@corp.delta.bc.ca or call (604) 946-3253.



The Corporation of Delta
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent
Delta BC V4K 3E2
604.946.4141

Delta's Pesticide Use Control Bylaw

To reduce the unnecessary application of chemical pesticides, the Corporation of Delta has introduced **Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 6788** which is in effect as of November 2010. The use of chemical herbicides, insecticides and fungicides for "cosmetic" purposes will be prohibited on all public and private property within the Corporation of Delta.

This bylaw is consistent with bylaws adopted in 150 other municipalities across Canada including several within Metro Vancouver.



What is a pest?

“Pest” means an injurious, noxious or troublesome living organism. It does not include a virus, bacteria, fungus or internal parasite that exists on or in humans or animals.

What is a pesticide?

Pesticides are substances that are used to eliminate or control unwanted pests such as weeds, fungi, insects and other pests.

What is meant by “cosmetic”?

Pesticides used for aesthetic purposes on your lawn or garden are prohibited. The bylaw does not include the use of pesticides for agricultural or commercial purposes nor to manage pests that transmit human diseases. The bylaw also does not include the use of organic pesticides.



Tips for a healthy, natural lawn

• Start with the right soil

Soil should have a balanced or neutral pH (6.0 – 7.0); a simple, easy to use soil testing kit can be purchased from your local garden centre.

• Select the right plants for the right spot that aren't invasive

Always buy from a local reputable nursery or garden centre. They have the knowledge to advise you which plants are suited to our climate and the specific conditions in your garden.

Visit www.greatplantpicks.org and www.evergreen.ca for lists of plants that thrive in our region.

Visit www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca for lists of plants currently considered to be invasive in BC.

• Aerate and dethatch if needed

Give your grass some room to breathe! While earthworm activity may be enough, soil can become compacted, restricting oxygen, nutrients and water access to roots. If a screwdriver doesn't go into your lawn easily, you need to aerate. A pesticide-free lawn will have little or no thatch.

• Overseed if desired

A dense lawn is a healthy lawn. After adding your compost layer, dethatching, liming and aerating, sowing new seed will make your lawn denser and help prevent weeds from getting established.

• Plant a variety of grass species

With a little diversity, your lawn will tolerate a wider range of growing conditions and be less susceptible to pests. Your local garden centre can help you choose cultivars that do well in various conditions.

• Mow high and regularly

Mow when the grass is dry to a height of 6 – 8 cm (2.5 – 3”) and be sure the blades are sharp.

• Leave clippings on the lawn

Leaving grass clippings on the lawn can provide up to 1/3 of the nitrogen the lawn needs and also reduce the need for fertilizer.

• Water thoroughly but not often

About 2.5 cm (1”) once or twice a week early in the morning or evening is all you need. More frequent watering can starve the soil of oxygen and result in shallow roots.

Be sure to follow Delta's lawn sprinkling regulations during the months of June - September; visit www.corp.delta.bc.ca

• Pull those weeds

A healthy lawn is very resistant to weeds, but if a few happen to get established, just dig them out by hand or with a small tool before they go to seed.



Photo by Marlene Graham