

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE  
HEALTHY HORTICULTURAL LANDSCAPES BY-LAW**

**Q1. What is the intent of the Healthy Horticultural Landscapes By-law?**

A1. The By-law was developed to help reduce pesticide use on horticultural landscapes by only permitting pesticides to be applied on a spot treatment basis for insect and weed control. In addition, the By-law encourages the use of qualified (IPM accredited) persons who will provide a complete maintenance program that identifies and manages pests in an environmentally responsible manner.

**Q2. What is IPM?**

A2. Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is a process that uses all necessary techniques to suppress pests effectively, economically and in an environmentally sound manner to sustain healthy landscapes. The advantages of using an IPM program include:

- Providing long-term solutions to pest problems;
- Protecting the environment and human health by reducing pesticide use;
- Providing alternative treatments to pest problems;
- Preventing pesticide resistant pests from developing; and,
- Enabling turf managers to control pesticide-resistant pests.

**Q3. What is considered a horticultural landscape?**

A3. A horticultural landscape includes maintained lawns and ornamental plantings including trees, shrubs and flowerbeds but does not include vegetable gardens or fruit trees or hard surfaces such as driveways and patio stones.

**Q4. What is spot treatment?**

A4. Spot treatment means the application of pesticides to no more than 20% of the horticultural landscape within a 30-day period. Only the weed/pest is targeted instead of treating the entire area, thereby reducing the amount of pesticides applied.

**Q5. Can I spray my own lawn?**

A5. You can only spot spray your lawn. A sign must be posted at all access points immediately prior to spraying and remain there for 48 hours after the pesticide application. No herbicides may be applied in July and August for weed control.

**Q6. Does the By-law affect 'weed and feed' products?**

A6. A weed and feed product contains herbicides and fertilizers. The herbicides are meant to destroy weeds while fertilizers simultaneously feed your lawn. The product cannot be applied to your whole lawn.

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**Q7. What products can I use?**

A7. Products sold commercially have a Pesticide Control Product number (PCP#) and can be used on a spot treatment basis. You can use homemade products at any time. Ensure they are safe to use and have no adverse affects on human health or the surrounding environment.

**Q8. If I decide to go “pesticide-free,” can I expect the same results?**

A8. Pesticides only correct a situation temporarily. Patience is required when converting your lawn to a pesticide-free lawn. Producing a healthy lawn requires acceptance of biodiversity and a habitat for insects and weeds that are controlled but not eliminated.

**Q9. Who can spray my lawn?**

A9. Any resident can spot spray their own lawn and/or a qualified person. Under the By-law a qualified person means, “A person who holds a degree in horticultural science, IPM Accreditation (by the IPM Council of Canada) or similar qualification.”

**Q10. Who is the IPM/PHC Council of Canada?**

A10. The IPM/PHC Council of Canada consists of industry associations, government regulators and advisors, and groups committed to having integrated pest management (IPM) as the new standard in turf and landscape care. The Council sets standards for the accreditation procedure and makes decisions on conferring and revoking accreditation privileges.

**Q11. How do I know if a company is IPM accredited?**

A11. The company vehicle will have a sticker on the side of the truck saying they are IPM accredited by the IPM/PHC Council of Canada. A public information record of all IPM accredited companies operating in the Town of Caledon will be recorded. You can confirm their status of IPM accreditation by calling the Town of Caledon, By-law Enforcement & Property Standards Section at (905) 584-2272 or you can visit the Town’s Web site at [www.town.caledon.on.ca](http://www.town.caledon.on.ca) for a list of IPM accredited companies.

**Q12. Is a permit required for treating the entire landscape area for an infestation?**

A12. Notification is required for the broad application of pesticides for infestations. The infestation must be confirmed by an IPM accredited company or a qualified person. There is no cost to obtain an infestation permit from the Town of Caledon and in most cases it will be issued immediately upon receiving the application. An inspection may be required prior to the pesticide application. Staff will rely on the qualified individual to use IPM principles before resorting to the broad application of pesticides.

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**Q13. What if I see someone spraying?**

A13. One of the reasons for having this type of regulation is education. Firstly the resident will be made aware of the By-law and its existence. Secondly, they will be directed towards alternatives or practices that do not require the broad application of pesticides. Complaints, concerns or inquiries can be directed to Town of Caledon, By-law Enforcement Property & Standards Section at (905) 584-2272 during regular business hours.

**Q14. What can I do to have a healthy lawn?**

A14. You can keep your lawn healthy by using the following maintenance practices:

- Mow your lawn at a height of no less than three inches and keep your mower blade sharp.
- One inch of water a week at dawn or dusk is all that is needed. Lawns naturally go dormant during a drought and a healthy lawn with healthy soil will rebound when it rains again.
- Aerate at least once a year to help oxygen, water and nutrients to reach grass roots.
- Leave the clippings on the lawn. They will be broken down and add free nutrients to your lawn.
- Over-seed thin or bare areas with a mixture of grass seed and a combination of compost, topsoil, triple mix, composted manure or peat moss.
- Diversify your property with native species such as low growing groundcovers, shrubs, trees and plants, using them in areas where turf is difficult to establish.

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