

Special Review of 2,4-D: Proposed Decision for Consultation

Source Document:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/part/consultations/_rev2016-08/rev2016-08-eng.php

Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for pesticide regulation in Canada. Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, the PMRA uses a stringent, science-based process to evaluate, register, and re-evaluate pesticides for use in Canada. The PMRA's duties include; registering and re-registering pesticides, promoting sustainable pest management practices, consulting the public and addressing their concerns, and ensuring compliance with the *Pest Control Products Act*. The PMRA works with partners both in Canada and abroad to ensure the highest degree of public health and safety.

Synopsis

Under the *Pest Control Products Act*, the PMRA must initiate a Special Review when a member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development prohibits uses of an active ingredient for health or environmental reasons. In 2000, Norway prohibited all uses of 2,4-D, and as a result, the PMRA has undertaken a Special Review to address the following concerns:

- Potential carcinogenicity of 2,4-D;
- The potential for runoff of 2,4-D to aquatic habitats from treated areas; and,
- The potential risk to aquatic plants following runoff.

The PMRA reviewed the extensive toxicological and epidemiological data available on 2,4-D. It noted that while some studies suggested a possible association between 2,4-D exposure and increased risk of certain types of cancer, other studies do not support this association. In considering the weight of evidence, the PMRA has concluded that 2,4-D cannot be classified as a human carcinogen.

The PMRA examined the chemical properties of 2,4-D, finding that it is not significantly absorbed by soil or sediment and is likely to runoff during rain or irrigation. However, analysis of real world data from numerous samples of runoff and surface water show that concentrations of 2,4-D are not high enough to pose a risk to either human or plant health. As an added precaution, measures to reduce runoff are included on product labels.

Based on this assessment of current scientific evidence, the PMRA determined that products containing 2,4-D do not present unacceptable risks to human health and the environment when used according to label instructions.

The PMRA consultation document may be found below and also at this link:

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