

# INDUSTRY TASK FORCE II ON 2,4-D RESEARCH DATA

Information Line: 1-800-345-5109  
Fax: 252-393-6327

2,4-D Web Page [www.24d.org](http://www.24d.org)  
e-mail: [donpage@24d.org](mailto:donpage@24d.org)

## NEWS RELEASE

### ANSWERS ABOUT LAWN CARE PESTICIDES CONTAINING 2,4-D

**Swansboro, NC, May 16** – With the arrival of spring, many Canadian homeowners will once again be turning their attention to lawn and garden care. And with spring's onset comes the resurgence of claims and counter claims concerning pesticide use by homeowners and commercial lawn care service companies.

“As a Canadian agricultural consultant who has worked in over 40 countries during the course of my career, I am very interested in this annual phenomenon in Canada”, observes Donald Page, Executive Director of the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data. “In the past three years Canada has seen an unprecedented assault on lawn care pesticides – a campaign not seen elsewhere in North America or Europe. We welcome the opportunity to be part of this important public debate.”

With over 20 years of involvement in research, the Task Force has an interest in this matter, given that 2,4-D is the most commonly used active ingredient in lawn care herbicides. The Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data is organized under U.S. pesticide law to provide funding for some 300 new research studies required to respond to both the Canadian and U.S. pesticide re-evaluation/re-registration programs. These studies are now complete and are currently being reviewed by regulatory agencies in Canada and the United States. This research must be undertaken by independent Good Laboratory Practices (“GLP”) accredited test facilities [[http://www.scc.ca/accreditation/palcan/psa/glp\\_e.html](http://www.scc.ca/accreditation/palcan/psa/glp_e.html)].

Pertinent facts about 2,4-D are as follows:

- Since 1986, 2,4-D has been reviewed by more than a dozen government and independent expert panels, including the Canadian Centre for Toxicology review conducted for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Harvard University School of Public Health, the World Health Organization [<http://www.24d.org/fao2.pdf>], the European Commission [<http://www.24d.org/Commission.pdf>] and the 175-page review of 2,4-D published in the Journal of the American College of Toxicology [<http://www.24d.org/amcoltox.pdf>].

- Last July a comprehensive review of 2,4-D by Dr. David H. Garabrant and Dr. Martin A. Philbert of the University of Michigan School of Public Health was published. After reviewing more than 160 recent toxicologic and epidemiologic studies Drs. Garabrant and Philbert concluded “the available evidence from epidemiologic studies is not adequate to conclude that any form of cancer is causally associated with 2,4- D exposure.”  
[http://www.crcjournals.com/eJournals/articles/article\\_synopsis.asp?id=38589](http://www.crcjournals.com/eJournals/articles/article_synopsis.asp?id=38589)
- The current United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2,4-D toxicology profile [[http://www.24d.org/epa\\_memo.pdf](http://www.24d.org/epa_memo.pdf)] shows it to be non-carcinogenic, non-mutagenic and non-teratogenic (i.e., it does not cause cancer, birth defects or genetic defects).
- The World Health Organization’s current 2,4-D monogram unequivocally states four times, “There was no evidence of carcinogenicity” in animal feeding tests.
- The review of the epidemiology and toxicology data packages by EPA’s 2,4-D Carcinogenicity Peer Review Committee [<http://www.24d.org/Rev4.pdf>] concludes – for the fourth time – that 2,4-D should remain a “Group D” compound. A “Group D” rating means that there is insufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in the extensive data package to classify the compound as a “known”, “probable” or “possible” carcinogen.

“The decisions of regulatory agencies and several expert panel reviews simply do not support the allegations that 2,4-D causes cancer or poses an unreasonable risk to human health”, stated Donald Page. “It is unfortunate that those who wish to ban the use of pesticides continue to trade on fear and half truths to advance their interests and confuse the Canadian public.”

Pesticides are regulated by federal and provincial statute and cannot be sold without extensive evaluation and subsequent federal approval. Under the Pest Control Products Act, only those products that do not pose a hazard to human health or the environment are approved for sale and use in Canada. As with any consumer product, it is important to follow label directions when using lawn and garden pesticides.

Additional information may be obtained toll-free: 1-800-345-5109, [www.24d.org](http://www.24d.org) or email: [donpage@24d.org](mailto:donpage@24d.org).