

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

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NEWS RELEASE

PESTICIDE USE: TOP QUESTIONS OF CANADIANS ABOUT LAWN CARE - PART I

Swansboro, NC, April 22 – 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 eighteen months Canada has seen an unprecedented assault on lawn care pesticides - a campaign not seen elsewhere in North America or Europe. This level of public debate is unique to Canada."

With 19 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 Task Force is a group of international companies sanctioned by government to fund more than 270 new research studies required by the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) under the Canadian pesticide re-evaluation program. These studies are now complete and are currently being reviewed by regulatory agencies in Canada and the United States.

"We have compiled the most frequently expressed concerns from Canadians voiced on the 2,4-D Information Line over the past nine months". According to Donald Page, "Foremost on the minds of those who call the information line is a concern about the potential health effects of lawn herbicides, and 2,4-D specifically."

The 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>), 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>).

- All expert panels concluded that the continued use of the herbicide 2,4-D poses no unreasonable risk to humans or the environment. Furthermore, there is no significant scientific evidence that 2,4-D causes cancer in humans or laboratory animals, including dogs.
- The current United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2,4-D toxicology profile (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 and genetic defects). The World Health Organization's current 2,4-D monogram states, "There was no evidence of carcinogenicity".
- The most recent 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 Class D compound.
- Under EPA's classification of carcinogenicity, a Class A compound is a known carcinogen, a Class B compound is a probable carcinogen and a Class C compound is a possible carcinogen. A Class D rating means that there is insufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in the now extensive data package to place the compound in any of the three higher classifications.

Canadians are understandably concerned about pesticide use in the urban setting. There are many contradictory statements in the public domain about the potential effects of pesticides on human and animal health. However, Canadian homeowners should be assured that their country has one of the most stringent pesticide regulatory systems in the world.

Additional information may be obtained toll-free: 1-800-345-5109, www.24d.org or email: donpage@24d.org.