



IVMA of BC

October 20, 2010 – Kelowna, BC

Pierre Petelle, CropLife Canada





Representing the developers, manufacturers and distributors of plant science innovations – pest control products and plant biotechnology

Outline

- Industry overview
- Federal regulatory process
- Urban pesticides issue
- Public perception
- Summary



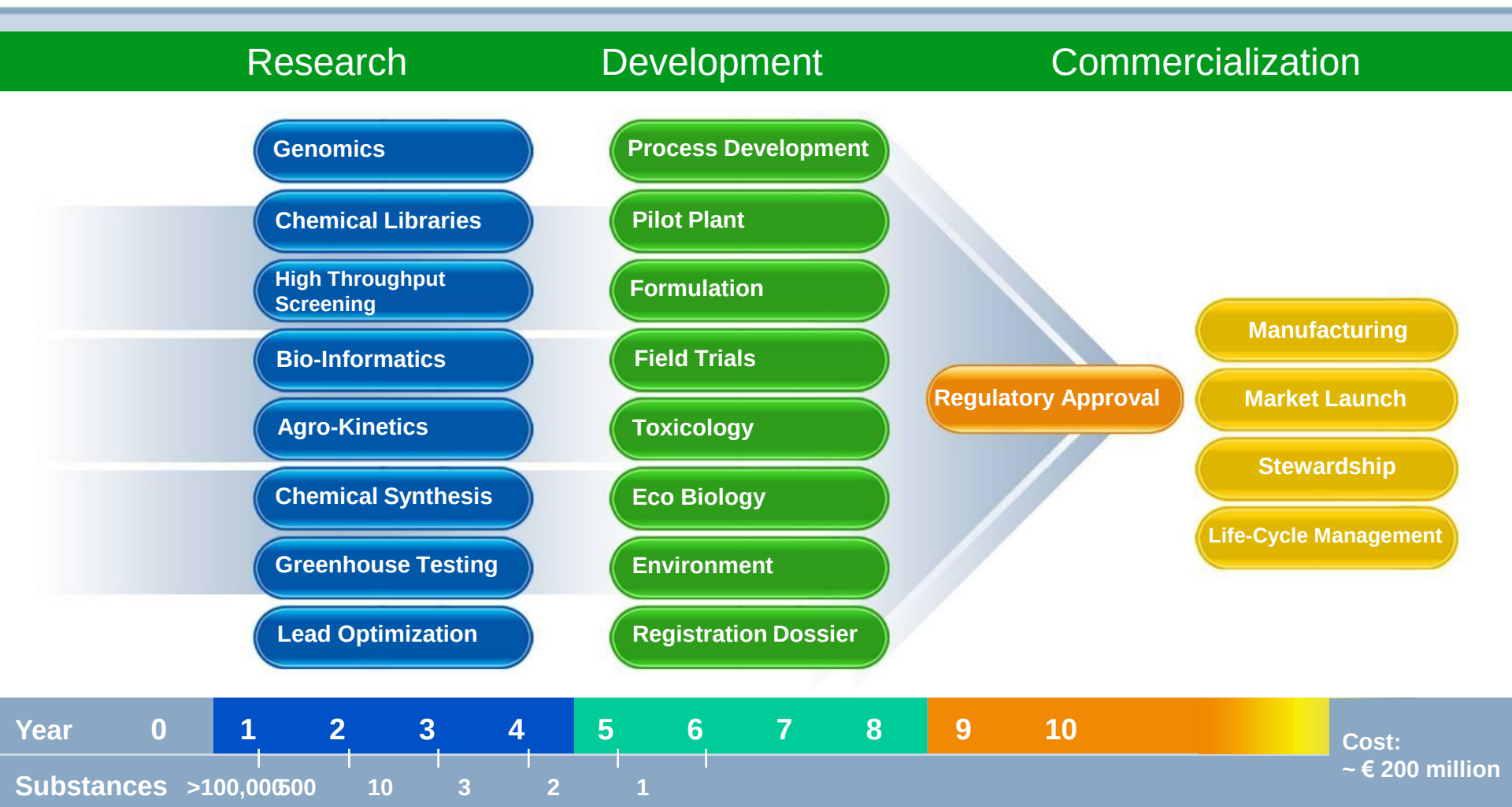
Health & Safety – A Shared Goal



CropLife Canada is committed to health and safety

- Our industry invests significantly in developing products that are safe and effective
- We acknowledge and support a strong, science-based regulatory system for all pesticides
- We encourage responsible use of pesticides for all their uses including:
 - urban green spaces, including lawns and gardens
 - agriculture/horticulture/forestry/industrial vegetation management
 - structural pest control
 - golf courses and recreational turf
 - personal use including insect repellents and pool chemicals

From Idea to Market



Regulatory Process



- Pesticides are stringently regulated by Health Canada to ensure they pose minimal risk to human health and the environment under authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*
- Pre-market review (scientific assessment of new products)
- Post-registration controls
 - Compliance activities
 - Monitoring and surveillance
 - Incident reporting
 - Sales data reporting
- Re-evaluation (scientific re-assessment – 15 year cycle)

Regulatory Process



- PMRA's role is to determine if proposed pesticides can be used safely when label directions are followed and will be effective for their intended use.
- If there is reasonable certainty from scientific evaluation that no harm to human health, future generations or the environment will result from exposure to or use of a pesticide, its registration for use in Canada will be approved

What is “Acceptable” Risk?



Acceptable risk: must be reasonable certainty of no harm

- to human health, future generations and the environment
- from exposure or use
- when used as directed

[as defined in *PCPA* s. 2(2)]

Scientific Studies



Require > 200 scientific studies to register a new pesticide

Health Assessment

- Toxicology (Hazard) and epidemiology information
- Occupational and bystander exposure
- Dietary exposure

Environmental Assessment

- Environmental toxicology
- Environmental chemistry and fate

Value Assessment

- Efficacy
- Competitiveness
- Sustainability

Data Requirements

- http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/registrant-titulaire/prod/_dacocodo/usc-cu_16_tgai-maqt-eng.php

URBAN PESTICIDE BANS

Contributing factors to urban bans



- The grassroots nature of the campaign against pesticides
- The participation, in leadership roles, of highly respected organizations such as the Canadian Cancer Society and the David Suzuki Foundation
- Insufficient defense of the government regulatory system by the very bodies responsible for assessing the safety of the products
- Generally low levels of scientific literacy and understanding of risk as well as a general aversion to chemicals and pesticides specifically among the public.
- Common belief that a suite of 'natural' products are available and just as effective.
- Our stakeholders are considerably less passionate about the issue than are our detractors.
- Under-appreciation of urban landscapes, particularly lawns.



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada



Pesticides are regulated by Health Canada under the *Pest Control Products Act*, and are among the most stringently regulated substances in Canada. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency is the branch of Health Canada that administers the Act on behalf of the Minister of Health. Our primary objective is to prevent unacceptable risks to people and the environment from the use of pesticides.

To accomplish this, each pesticide goes through a thorough scientific evaluation to determine if it meets current health and environmental standards. Only those pesticide products that meet Health Canada's standards and that are proven to be effective can be accepted for use in Canada.

Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency website





Pesticides can comprise human health. Children are particularly vulnerable to the noxious effects of pesticides due to their physiology and higher exposure level that results from their behaviour Pets are also vulnerable to these products.

A number of pesticides, including some that are routinely applied to lawns, are suspected of causing more long-term health effects, either because they are carcinogenic or they disrupt the reproductive, endocrine, immunity or nervous systems.

Government of Québec website



The Ontario Cosmetic Pesticides Ban

Using pesticides on our lawns and gardens is unnecessary and harms our environment along with the health of our families and pets.

As kids grow, their small bodies can be more sensitive to the effects of pesticides. And because they spend a lot of time playing outdoors, they have a greater chance of coming into contact with harmful pesticides.

That's why Ontario has banned the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

Ontario Ministry of Environment website





The Ontario Cosmetic Pesticides Ban

- *The government has listened to medical experts – like the Canadian Cancer Society – who have made a convincing case for reducing our exposure to pesticides, particularly children who are generally more susceptible to the potential toxic effects of pesticides.*

- Ontario Ministry of Environment website

What happens when the “medical experts”
at CCS demand additional restrictions?



Update - Ontario

Ontario ban came into effect in April 2009.

Media support of the ban waning considerably (with impacts of ban being portrayed negatively in many instances)

CropLife focus has necessarily shifted to other regions of Canada, however don't consider the fight in Ontario over – just on hold (October 2011 election)



Ontario Update

Key elements:

- The ban affects both sale and use
- Exemptions for agriculture, forestry, golf courses, and some other prescribed uses – with conditions
- There is a list of banned products and active ingredients – glyphosate was added to banned list
- Provincial legislation replaces municipal by-laws
- Very weak criteria for allowable domestic products

PMRA has indicated publicly that lawn and garden restrictions are not warranted since their risk assessment takes this into account



Ontario Update



Ontario government is actively promoting a stream monitoring study as “proof” the ban is working

- Not peer reviewed
- Conclusions being drawn are highly speculative
- Only spanned two years

Former Minister sent letters to all provincial environment ministers seeking similar approach

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ENV12

May 11, 2009

The Honourable Elaine Taylor
Minister of Environment
Yukon

2071 - 2nd Avenue
P.O. Box 2703

Whitehorse YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Minister Taylor:

I am pleased to advise you that the Ontario Government has taken two steps forward to reduce toxic substances in our environment by passing the *Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, 2008*, and introducing Bill 167, the proposed Toxic Substances Reduction Act.

On April 22, 2009, the Ontario Government announced that Ontario Regulation 609 and the *Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, 2008* are in effect.

The Act takes a prudent approach to reduce unnecessary risk, especially for vulnerable members of our society, from the cosmetic uses of pesticides. The Act prohibits the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes in parks and school yards, and includes many herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. About 250 products will be banned for sale and more than 80 pesticide products have been banned for cosmetic uses.

The ban prohibits the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes in parks and school yards, and includes many herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. About 250 products will be banned for sale and more than 80 pesticide products have been banned for cosmetic uses.

Under the ban, the use of biopesticides and certain lower risk pesticides are allowed for controlling weeds and pests in lawns and gardens. The biopesticides are those designated by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Lower risk pesticides were selected based on PMRA's proposed criteria for low risk pesticides that have characteristics such as low toxicity to humans, minimal impact to the environment, and act in a non-toxic way in controlling intended pests. More information is available on the web site at www.ontario.ca/pesticideban.

The Honourable Elaine Taylor
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Another important initiative to protect the health of Ontarians is Bill 167 which, if passed, would be the cornerstone of Ontario's Toxics Reduction Strategy. This strategy would improve the quality of life for Ontarians by reducing toxics in our air, land, water and consumer products, while helping industry move to a green economy that is less reliant on toxic substances.

Regulated facilities would be required to track and evaluate their current use and release of toxics, develop a plan to reduce the use and release of toxics, and make a summary of the plan available to the public, as part of the government's commitment to inform Ontarians about toxics.

Through the Bill and our Toxics Reduction Strategy, we would work with industry to plan for a reduction in toxics currently in use and develop innovative new technologies and encourage more environmentally friendly substances to reduce our reliance on toxics.

We recognize the need to provide assistance to spur early action and support for building a green economy. In Ontario, as well as in other jurisdictions, such as Massachusetts and New Jersey, facilities that have undertaken this exercise end up increasing their profitability. We intend to adopt the best practices from other leading jurisdictions.

In closing, I encourage you – as I am encouraging colleagues across the country – to consider banning the cosmetic use of pesticides and to develop toxics reduction legislation. This kind of action will help protect our health and environment, and better position industry to compete in an ever-growing green economy. Our collective efforts would make a tremendous difference in our shared environment and in the quality of life for Canadians.

Sincerely,



John Gerretsen
Minister

Alberta



- Province removed combination products in 2010 based on the non-targeted application of pesticides and concerns about impact on water quality. Provincial officials firm on Health Canada as the authority, have been very involved in providing accurate information to various city councils.
- Calgary City Council decided not to implement any bylaw changes – after over a year of work toward enhanced restrictions.

British Columbia



- Gov't consulted with public (closed Feb 15)
- Industry established a steering committee in April 2009
 - includes reps from industrial vegetation management (including hydro, rail), forestry, landscaping, agriculture.
- CLC has met and continues to meet with government officials and officially responded to the consultation document, provided support materials to steering committee, developed and distributed postcards, media outreach

BC Question Period, June 2010



Minister Penner response to an opposition question, “...More than 8,000 submissions have been received from British Columbians across the province. Our ministry is busy reviewing those suggestions, those comments. I've asked ministry staff to develop a number of proposals. **But all British Columbians should know that no substance is allowed to be sold in British Columbia unless it's first approved by experts at Health Canada.**”

Minister Penner also went on to say, “**They** (Health Canada) **have literally hundreds of scientists and specialists that are engaged in this activity and British Columbians have the right to know that.**”

Oh, how things change...

April 2009 – Richmond stakeholder meeting greeted by activists...



March 2010 – Richmondites love pesticides after all!

Question of the week

Do you support spraying 776 hectares of Richmond City Centre with a **pesticide** to eradicate the gypsy moth?

Vote online at
richmondreview.com

Results so far:

Yes.....75%
No.....25%

Source: Richmond Review, March 25, 2010

New Brunswick & PEI

- Announced a partial ban for 2010
- Several differences from Ontario
 - Not as sweeping (removes broadcast treatments, concentrates, few others)
 - Does not allege health and safety concerns, but rather a public demand
 - Largely science-based except for inclusion of 2,4-D and some formulation types
- Anti-pesticide activists see this as insufficient and do not hold it up as an example

Nova Scotia



- Introduced more aggressive legislation this year
- Consultation paper was very biased and contained many inaccuracies
- Much more like Ontario's ban than NB, PEI
- Still developing an “exempted list”



CropLife Canada is a charter member of the new Science Media Centre of Canada

The Goal:

Increased public engagement with science issues through media coverage of science that is more informed, more accurate and more incisive.

Scientists, journalists, policy makers and the public will benefit.



Summary

- Ours is a highly scientific industry with extreme regulatory oversight
- Stigmatization of pesticides will jeopardize all uses
- Lack of science and predictability will have major negative impact on innovation – impacting all sectors
- All sectors have a stake in this issue
- Provinces have an opportunity to show leadership and demonstrate a viable option
- Unified stakeholders and common messaging have changed the discussion



Join us in Ottawa

Nov 30 - Dec 2, 2010

as the GrowCanada[®] conference explores
agriculture's ability to influence, enable and
connect beyond our fences and our borders.

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?