



Pesticide newsletter

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Regulatory news



Canada: Montreal, first city to ban 36 pesticides, including glyphosate

A first in Canada! The city of Montreal has just announced a new pesticide [bylaw](#) banning the sale and use of several of the most dangerous pesticide so-called active ingredients, including glyphosate, chlorpyrifos and some neonicotinoids. In all, 36 molecules, representing 109 pesticide products, will be banned by the regulation from 2022. This ban concerns individuals and amateur gardeners as well as farmers. Montreal is the first territory in Quebec to ban the use of these products, including for agriculture, although this sector is very marginal in Montreal.

Commercial businesses using other products are also affected by this regulation. They will be required to obtain an annual permit before using any pesticide and to submit annual records of use, as well as to follow precautionary measures, such as ensuring that doors and windows are closed within 17 feet of the application site and covering vegetable gardens and swimming pools within 8 meters with a tarp. Additional inspectors will be trained to enforce the regulations.

Mayor Valérie Plante says the municipality is the [first](#) in North America to go this far. The bylaw is expected to be adopted by the City Council on September 27 and is scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 2022.

Valérie Plante's administration is encouraging gardeners, both professional and amateur, to switch to less toxic pesticides or biopesticides. Concerned about the risks of pesticides on health and the environment, she explains her decision by the evolution of scientific knowledge and the use of the precautionary principle. "The harmful effects of pesticides on health are increasingly documented. Doctors and scientists have sounded the alarm about their impact on humans and the environment and action must be taken."

The initiative was welcomed by Dr. Éric Notebaert, vice-chair of *Association québécoise des médecins pour l'environnement* (AQME), who said: "AQME greets the City of Montreal's initiative. It shows a real concern for public health. And we look forward to working with the City on this important issue."

On the other hand, the decision has not been welcomed by the *Union des Producteurs Agricoles* (UPA), which would have liked an [exception](#) for the agricultural sector and fears that other municipalities will follow Montreal's example. It is asking the Quebec government to intervene in order to get the full power of legislative and regulatory prerogatives with respect to pesticides. In Quebec, municipalities have the right to regulate the use of pesticides within their boundaries, as long as they are not more permissive than the province.

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