



Newsletter about Pesticides

N°8 – May 2022

Legislative and regulatory news



Canada: Illegal glyphosate sales in Montreal and Pest Management Plan in British Columbia

In September 2021, the municipality of Montreal announced the adoption of a [new regulation](#) banning the sale and use of several of the most dangerous pesticide substances, such as glyphosate, chlorpyrifos and some neonicotinoids. This regulation came into force on January 1, 2022.

However, on March 19, [Radio-Canada](#) revealed that these products, especially glyphosate-based weed killers, were still on sale in stores: "We found glyphosate on sale in seven Rona stores in Montreal. There were also some in a Canadian Tire store, but the store removed all containers of these products a few hours after we asked a representative of the parent company."

It therefore remains for the municipality to follow up on the application of this regulation and to apply the penalties for future non-compliance.

While Montreal wants to get rid of glyphosate, the substance is promoted at the other end of the country! In the province of British Columbia, [BC Timber Sales](#) (BCTS), a government agency that manages about 20% of the timber that is allowed to be cut each year, presented a [five-year pest management plan](#) in March 2022 for the Chinook operating area, which stretches from Squamish to Hope, affecting the First Nations territories St'át'imc, Stó:lō, Nlaka'pamux, Sḵwxwú7mesh et Tseil-Waututh.

The plan outlines a variety of options for controlling so-called "nuisance" species, ranging from hand cutting of brush to aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides in situations where tree growth is affected by competing vegetation.

Whereas some plants such as salal, hackberry, or red alder, are considered as harmful pests for the growth of commercial crops by the timber industry, they are vital foods and remedies for indigenous peoples.

In addition, spraying forests with herbicides fails to improve the survival or growth of conifers in most cases, according to [Suzanne Simard](#), a professor of ecology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). At the same time, it has negative ecological consequences, including reduced biodiversity, degraded wildlife habitat, reduced carbon sequestration capacity and increased soil erodibility. Moreover, favoring conifers over hardwoods, as called for in the plan, increases the risk of wildfire.

The announcement of this five-year plan has raised many concerns. In early April, the BC Green Party said it had received about 2,000 emails from voters, challenging the plan. As of April 11, 2022, the proposed Pest Management Plan had not yet been submitted to the Ministry of Environment for [approval](#), as required, but is expected to be so soon.

If you have made it this far, can you make one more small effort to allow us to continue this work of investigation and information to help the victims of pesticides?

Justice Pesticides needs you.

[I donate to Justice Pesticides](#)

[Back to Justice Pesticides Website](#)