



NATIONAL ALLIED GOLF ASSOCIATION - BRITISH COLUMBIA SUGGESTIONS REGARDING FURTHER RESTRICTIVE PESTICIDE LEGISLATION

ISSUE

At the request of Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides Chair, Bill Bennett, The National Allied Golf Association - British Columbia (NAGA - BC) offers the following options/ideas to further enhance public and environmental protection relating to pesticide use in the British Columbia golf industry. We appreciate the opportunity to work with this committee and government in general to ensure the highest safety standards possible in registration, transportation, dispensing, storage, application and disposal of pest control products.

Although very stringent regulations governing pesticides already exist in Canada, improvement is always possible and we would make the following suggestions aimed at enhancing BC golf industry pesticide use practices:

- 💡 **Mandatory pesticide applicator certification:** currently, only permit-restricted and restricted class pesticides require an applicator certificate for purchase and all uses. The BC golf industry would support enhancing applicator certificate requirements to include commercial and domestic class pesticides including pesticide applications made to private land.
- 💡 **Enhanced applicator certification part 1:** currently, the pesticide applicator certification is based on a comprehensive (3 hour) multiple choice open book test for which a 75% passing grade is required to achieve 5-year certification. The BC golf industry supports this methodology but suggests enhancing applicator certificate training by mandating a minimum four-day recognized training course as pre-requisite to test writing.
- 💡 **Enhanced applicator certification part 2:** currently, there is no system in place to ensure pesticide certificate holders have sufficient 'hands-on' competency/proficiency to properly mix, load, apply and dispose of pesticides. The BC golf industry suggests a system of practical, hands-on competency based requirements such as formal applicator equipment operation training and testing included in the certification/re-certification process. Alternatively, initial pesticide certification could be limited to one year with a requirement that on-the-job training fulfills certain standards of equipment knowledge and operation proficiency to be demonstrated before being issued a 5 year certificate.
- 💡 **Enhanced applicator certification part 3:** currently, a re-certification system is in place where certificate holders may renew their credentials through a system of ongoing education points rather than re-writing the test. The BC golf industry suggests that all pesticide applicators be required to satisfy ongoing education requirements as already exist **and** re-write the examination every 5 years in order to fully renew their pesticide applicator certificate.

Note: *The Western Canada Turfgrass Association (NAGA-BC affiliate) entered into an agreement with the BC Ministry of Environment in 2002 to act as credit coordinator for the Landscape Category of pesticide certificate. The job of the WCTA is to ensure enough educational opportunities are available for certificate holders to achieve the required points, record point acquisition and submit individual certificates to MOE for renewal. Currently, there are 493 active participants in the renewal program.*

- 💡 **Mandatory industry group membership:** the golf industry organizations affiliated with NAGA-BC encourage membership in their respective associations. Membership services and policies vary amongst NAGA-BC affiliates but generally, members are required to adhere to specific codes of conduct, ethics, professionalism and best management practices. These policies do not apply to those outside the industry consortium. The BC golf industry would suggest mandatory individual membership in one of either the Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) or British Columbia Golf Superintendents Association (BCGSA), both NAGA-BC affiliate organizations related to turf management, as pre-requisite to pesticide use at their golf facility.
- 💡 **Voluntary 3rd party facility accreditation:** currently, nine BC golf courses have been certified by the Audubon International Society Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, a voluntary environmental stewardship program with standards beyond current government regulation that apply specifically to golf courses. Other similar programs/templates exist such as the Golf Environmental Organization (GEO) and International Standards Organization environmental achievement designation (ISO 14001). The golf industry suggests government encourages and incentivizes golf facilities to participate in a recognized environmental achievement program.
- 💡 **Mandatory IPM certification:** other provinces have enacted legislation requiring facilities become IPM accredited through a mandated program such as the PlantHealth Atlantic or IPM Council of Canada. The BC golf industry suggests that while creating a policy where two separate certificates are required to complete one task may unnecessarily add to bureaucracy, there is potential to further integrate IPM certification into the existing framework of pesticide applicator certification.
- 💡 **Commitment to researching alternatives:** in partnership with government and other stakeholders, the BC golf industry suggests a cooperative funding approach to research viable zero-risk pest control alternatives.

About NAGA - BC

NAGA - BC comprises all sectors of the golf industry including golf course owners (NGCOA), golf course managers (CSCM), golf professionals (PGA of BC), golf course superintendents (BCGSA), the governing body for amateur sport and players (BCGA), and the body mandated with turfgrass research and development (WCTA).

Golf is the number one sport in Canada based on participation and is played by an estimated 812,000 resident golfers in **British Columbia** at over 316 golf course facilities.

The BC golf industry employs 47,000 people generating \$1.08 billion in household income, \$160.7 million in property and other indirect taxes and about \$256.5 million in income taxes.

Golf in **British Columbia** generates \$4.05 billion in total gross production through direct, indirect and induced spending impacts. The total direct economic activity (total direct sales) resulting from the **British Columbia's** Golf Industry is estimated at \$2.01 billion. Of this total, the revenues generated directly by golf courses, and their associated facilities is estimated at \$617.1 million.

For further information, please contact NAGA - BC Chair, Barrie McWha at bmcwha@bcgolfhouse.com.