

Schlein, Paul B

From: Bird in the Rafters [mailto:birdintherafters@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 4:26 PM
To: Schlein, Paul B
Cc: Fish, Gary
Subject: Re: Info DEP question/comment

Dear Mr. Schlein and Mr. Fish,

Thank you both for taking my concerns seriously and for convincing me to take more action on something I feel very strongly about. You may use my email comments in your discussion. I have been researching chemical pesticides and fertilizers for a couple of years now, even as the number of users in my neighborhood has steadily increased. I went door to door with my most convincing information in the spring this year, but the local lawn care company had beat me to it. Most of the people had signed contracts in the winter. Another application was done today across the street from my house. I would like to do everything I can to put a stop to these toxic chemicals being used in residential neighborhoods, schools, government buildings and anywhere within 1000 feet of a waterway. I feel that legislation is the only way to create the necessary changes in regulation. Please let me know what else I can do to help get these chemicals banned in Maine.

Sincerely,

Emily Serway
Westbrook, ME

From: "Schlein, Paul B" <Paul.B.Schlein@maine.gov>
To: birdintherafters@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 3:58:06 PM
Subject: RE: Info DEP question/comment

Dear birdintherafters@yahoo.com,

Your concerns are important to us and we would like to submit your e-mail to the Board of Pesticides Control for discussion at its next meeting on June 12. However, in order to do this, we will need a name and contact information, other than your e-mail address.

Thank you.

Paul Schlein

Public Information Officer
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333-0028
207-287-7533 Phone
207-287-7548 Fax
<http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org>

From: Fish, Gary
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 11:32 AM
To: birdintherafters@yahoo.com
Cc: Schlein, Paul B ; Welch, Barb ; Connors, Raymond G ; Jennings, Henry ; Demkowicz, Bob A
Subject: RE: Info DEP question/comment

Dear Bird in the rafters,

Lawn care applicators and the pesticides they apply are regulated by the Board of Pesticides Control. We are very concerned about applications that are done just prior to heavy rain storms. Especially storms that cause sheet flow of water over the top of the lawn which may bring both pesticides and fertilizers into waters of the state. Usually sheet flow begins after we receive at least 1/2 inch of rain in an hour or less.

What company did the application? They should be following the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were adopted by the Board last year (see http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/turf_bmps/index.htm).

If you would like us to, we will investigate the application to see if it was done legally and according to the BMPs. In the past the Board has fined applicators for applications just prior to heavy rains.

As for banning the application of lawn care pesticides, I will forward your concern to our Board. In the mean time, I suggest that you bring this concern to your local legislative representatives and to your town. Banning of lawn care pesticides is a very controversial topic that will only happen at the State legislature level or Municipal level. A list of the towns in Maine that regulate pesticides is found at

http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/pdf/Municipal_ordinance_list_rev-5-08.pdf .

The Board has spearheaded a move towards minimizing reliance on yard care pesticides. We are the coordinators of the Maine YardScaping Partnership www.yardscaping.org . The web site has lots of information to help homeowners create beautiful yards with less pesticides, fertilizers and water. Maybe you could refer your neighbor to our site.

If you still have questions or would like us to investigate the application done on your neighbor's yard, please reply.

Gary Fish
Manager, Pesticide Programs
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta , ME 04333-0028
207-287-7545
gary.fish@maine.gov
www.thinkfirstspraylast.org
www.yardscaping.org

From: birdintherafters@yahoo.com [mailto:birdintherafters@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sat 5/9/2009 8:35 PM

To: Web DEP Info

Subject: Info DEP question/comment

To: infodep

From:

Email: birdintherafters@yahoo.com

Other contact info:

Question or Comment

Hello,

I am very concerned about the rampant use of lawn care herbicide and pesticide applications in our state. The number of waterways and the amount of coastal access should preclude ANY use of such toxic chemicals as are found in the average lawn care applications. I implore you, as stewards of our state's health, ecology and well being to seriously consider banning these toxic chemicals in Maine . You and I both know that they are terrible for our health and for the health of our environment. Our neighbors had an application done today, and then it rained. All of those chemicals will be washed into the sewers, and they will be in the waterways tomorrow. If you need further convincing, please look at the information on this website: www.beyondpesticides.org

Thank you for your time.