

bepesticidefree

It doesn't cost a thing!

What is a pesticide?

A substance designed to kill pests. The term includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides.

Are pesticides safe?

No, according to federal regulations, the terms "environmentally safe" or "safe for the environment" cannot be used on pesticide labels.

Did you know?

Over 140 cities, towns, and municipalities across Canada have bylaws restricting the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society's pesticide reduction work has been supported by grants from:

City of Saskatoon
Canadian Cancer Society
EJLB Foundation
Saskatchewan Lung Association
Howard Family Foundation
Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee
SEIMA - Student Employment Experience
Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs
and numerous private donations

The following organizations have recently passed motions calling for restrictions on the use of herbicides:

Saskatoon Health Region



Learn how to be pesticide free by contacting the:

Saskatchewan Environmental Society

PO Box 1372

Saskatoon, SK S7K 3N9

ph 306.665.1915

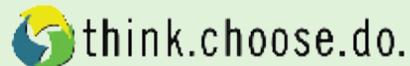
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The Saskatchewan Environmental Society is an incorporated non-profit registered charitable organization that has been working for a sustainable future in Saskatchewan since 1970.

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SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

dandelions&ants

5 easy tips to control them!



livesustainablelives

dandelions

1. Relax!

No one ever died from dandelions. However, Saskatchewan has the highest rate of acute pesticide poisoning fatalities in Canada. Just spraying your lawn can cause a serious health crisis for a neighborhood child with asthma.

2. Prevent!

A healthy lawn out-competes weed seeds. You could also try corn gluten meal; it can be sown into your established lawn to prevent germination of new weed seeds.

3. Pick!

Simply picking the heads off before they go to seed will help reduce the dandelion population in your yard. You could also try a dandelion rake (the one with the solid rounded head and little triangular teeth). These rakes are designed to grab the heads and pull them off.

4. Aerate!

Dandelions are often a sign of soil compaction. After aerating, over-seed the lawn with grass seed suited to your local conditions. Your lawn needs to be rejuvenated on a regular basis so it can out-compete the weeds.

5. Dig!

There are many weed pulling tools on the market that will help you dig the plant out, root and all, with out even bending over.



Vinegar can be used as a non-selective herbicide spray. If you have dandelions growing in cracks in your sidewalk or driveway, you can also douse them with boiling water. Be careful when using this on the lawn as it will also kill the grass.

Finally, enjoy your dandelions! Young fresh dandelions leaves make an excellent additions to salads, but only if they have never been sprayed with pesticides. Similarly, dandelion heads can be used to make wine.



ants

Ants are the animal pest that we get the most questions about. They are actually very beneficial to your yard. They are great predators, and generally turn more soil than earthworms. However, they can sometimes become a problem. Here are five tips to help you deal with them.

1. Rake!

Repeatedly raking the mounds will encourage the ants to locate elsewhere.

2. Attract Songbirds!

Plant flowers, shrubs and trees to attract songbirds. They will gladly help you with your ant problem.

3. Pour!

Boiling water poured on a freshly raked colony will help eliminate it.

4. Dust!

Spread diatomaceous earth on the ant hill to help eliminate them. It is made from the shells of microscopic sea creatures. As they walk over it, it cuts open the bodies of crawling insects. This is safe for pets, but careful not to inhale any.

5. Water!

Ants prefer dry soil, so watering deeply once a week will help keep your soil moist and discourage ant colonies.

6. Bait!

Sprinkle homemade bait made of 2 Tbsp icing sugar and 1Tbsp borax on the ant hill. The sugar/borax mixture is tempting and toxic for them. Careful, borax is toxic for humans, pets, and plants so use sparingly!

