

May 13, 2008

Hi,

This came across in an online turf newsletter that I receive. Thought you might be interested.

Home Depot Canada phases out pesticides

<http://www.golfdom.com/golfdom/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=514055>

Even though it's another country and another segment of the green industry, golf course superintendents should know that Home Depot Canada plans to voluntarily stop selling traditional pesticides and herbicides in its stores across Canada by the end of 2008 and increase its selection of environmentally friendly alternatives.

The Home Depot is the first home improvement retailer to stop selling pesticides voluntarily across Canada and will phase out the products long before legislated deadlines. The Home Depot stores in Quebec do not sell pesticides. In addition, there are currently over 55 municipalities in Canada where the residential use, but not sale, of pesticides is banned. As the leader in the Canadian home improvement industry, The Home Depot will not sell any traditional pesticides and currently offers over 50 natural alternatives for its customers.

"Like our customers, we at The Home Depot, are concerned about the environment," said Annette Verschuren, president of The Home Depot Canada and Asia. "We are going above and beyond government regulations by working with our suppliers to develop pesticide alternatives that are environmentally friendly and produce excellent results on lawns and gardens."

Pesticides will be phased out of The Home Depot stores across Canada starting immediately. By June 2008, The Home Depot anticipates that 62 of its stores nationwide will no longer sell pesticides, with all 166 stores offering additional environmentally preferred replacement products by the end of 2008.

"Our stores will prominently feature green pesticide alternatives, in addition to our current Eco Options products, and our trained associates will continue to provide customers with product information and tips, as well as on-line support," added Verschuren.

Product categories currently affected by The Home Depot's voluntary phase-out include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, slug baits, moss control products and lawn fertilizers with weed control. A total of 60 products will be affected.

The Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement specialty retailer with 2,257 retail stores, including 166 across Canada. In fiscal 2007, The Home Depot had sales of \$77.3 billion and earnings from continuing operations of \$4.2 billion. The company employs more than 300,000 people, including more than 30,000 Canadians.