

Pesticide Container Collection Program



CropLife Canada's Pesticide Container Collection Program provides consumers, mainly agricultural producers, with an environmentally safe and convenient way to dispose of empty pesticide containers.

Saskatchewan's agricultural producers generated approximately 2.4 million empty plastic pesticide containers in 2007. With proper cleaning, these containers represent a valuable resource that can be recycled economically and in an environmentally safe way.

When disposed of improperly, residue from these containers can contaminate the environment. As well, if the containers are burned, the plastic and the pesticide residue can emit toxic compounds that can have a negative impact on air quality. Burning also leaves toxic ashes that pollute the soil and groundwater.

History

The Pesticide Container Collection Program is a voluntary environmental stewardship program that evolved out of a similar program operated from 1983 through 1989 by the Ministry of Environment.

CropLife Canada manages and funds pesticide container collection programs across Canada, including the program in Saskatchewan. CropLife Canada is an industry group that represents the manufacturers and distributors of plant life science solutions for agriculture.

How to Recycle

CropLife Canada, through its *Stewardshipfirst*[™] initiative, has established a network of over 450 dealer and 35 rural municipality collection sites in Saskatchewan.

Producers are required to triple rinse, properly drain and dry the plastic containers. They can then be returned to a designated collection site. The material is accepted at the depots at no cost.

To locate a pesticide container collection depot, refer to CropLife Canada's website at www.croplife.ca.

How the Program Works

The Pesticide Container Collection Program is funded entirely by industry. The cost of the program is imbedded in the cost of the product.

The pesticide containers are collected and shredded at a material recovery facility and the plastic is recycled into curb stops and fence posts or used in the conversion of waste to energy in some industrial plants.



Accomplishments

Approximately 1.7 million pesticide containers were recycled by Saskatchewan producers in 2007. That is over 600,000 kilograms of plastic pesticide containers.

Interesting Facts

Saskatchewan collects the highest number of pesticide containers in Canada.

At 70 per cent, the province has one of the highest return rates nationally.



For more information about the Pesticide Container Collection, visit www.croplife.ca or call 1-877-874-3444.