

Tracking Urban Pesticide Use

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Agricultural pesticide use is relatively well accounted for in California, but urban pesticide use is largely unknown.

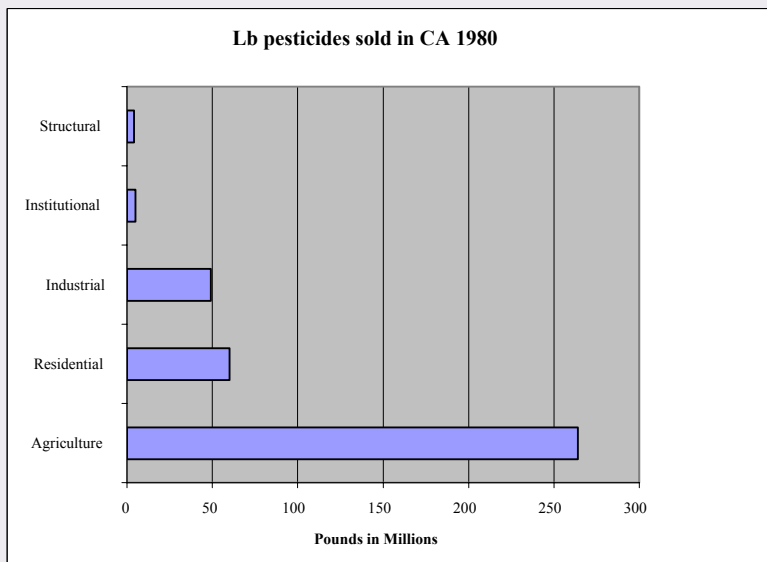


Why are we concerned about urban pesticide use?

- More likely exposure to high density populations.
- More likely exposure of children & other vulnerable populations.
- Often applied by people with little training or knowledge of pesticides or pesticide safety procedures.
- Run-off of urban pesticides now implicated in water quality problems.



Lasting accounting of CA non-ag pesticide use-- 1980 Mil tax figures from CDFA (About one-third--120 m lbs nonag. Note: prof. landscape use is ag))



Urban pesticide use not reported by location

- Can't connect applications to sites
- Can't relate applications to distance to watersheds, etc



Major groups of pesticide users in urban areas

- Residential users
- Structural pest control operators
- Licensed/certified commercial landscape applicators
- Maintenance gardeners
- Private business owners and employees
- Pet groomers
- Public agency employees

Let's look at different sites of urban pesticide use

- Residential
- Public property
- Commercial property



Residential

- We don't know the pounds but we have estimates of who applies
- About 75% residences in Sacto are treated outside
- About 38% do it themselves
- About 37% by someone else
- About 10% hire PCOs
- (most structural use by SPCOs)



Public property (parks, schools, public buildings, roadsides, etc.)

- Public employees generally report or hire licensed PCOs who report
- School employee use may not be reported. Schools keep records, but don't send to DPR.
- Can't separate applications on public property from private property in PUR.



Commercial property: restaurants, factories, warehouses, office buildings, stores, etc.

- Applications by commercial licensed applicators reported
- Applications by owners or employees not reported when using over-the-counter products



Active ingredients for non-reported use a big unknown

- No idea of pounds sold over-the-counter for individual active ingredients
- In 1980 this represented at least 60 million pounds annually
- 2003 shelf survey showed 541 over-the-counter products with 112 active ingredients



What could we do if we had better urban pesticide use data?

- Better identify source of pesticides causing water quality or other environmental problems.
- Better focus our education and outreach activities on groups that have highest use of risky pesticides.
- Better focus our pest management research activities to develop alternatives for those sites, pests and groups using high risk pesticides.