

Protecting Our Natural Resources For Future Generations

We all know the township is growing in population and with it, the pressure on the environment is increasing. The use of chemical-based pesticides can have far reaching consequences on our environment and will contribute to the already mounting pressures on it.

As the residents of McKellar, we all share a responsibility to protect our natural resources for generations to come. Why not consider natural alternatives to insect control?

The more steps each of us take to reduce the use of chemicals around our community, the more we help preserve our ecosystem for future generations.

Together, we can all help reduce the effects that insecticides applied through spraying or fogging methods have on our environment. By using more organic and natural alternatives, we will help ensure our entire ecosystem remains healthy for generations to come.

The insects so vital to our ecosystem will thank you.



Produced by the Township of McKellar
Lake Stewardship and Environmental
Committee.

A committee created to pursue a mission of fostering environmental awareness, understanding and appreciation to protect and sustain our municipality's abundant natural resources, which enhance the quality of life for our residents and seasonal visitors.

For more information on what you can do to help protect our precious natural resources for future generations, go to:

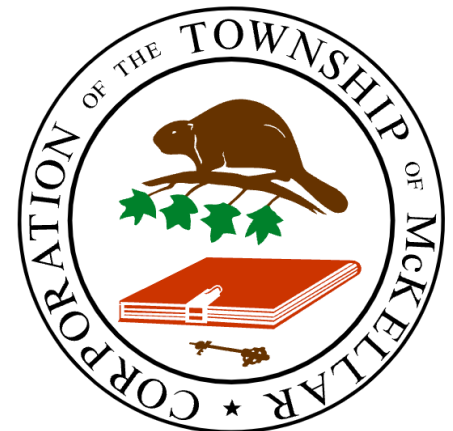
www.McKellar.ca

and visit the Environment tab for residents.

FOGGING FOR MOSQUITOES



THINGS TO CONSIDER



Factors to Consider

Whether it's blackflies or mosquitos, biting bugs are not a welcome sight for residents and cottagers. Over the years, that has led to many people turning to chemical-based solutions to reduce bugs on their property. The application of insecticides in the past was typically done through spraying. Recently, fogging has become the application method used by most pest control companies.

One problem with many chemical-based solutions is that other insects can be affected. Bees, butterflies, ladybugs, and dragonflies are also killed by the application of insecticides. Insecticides don't just kill those biting bugs, they can kill a whole host of insects that are beneficial and crucial to our fragile environment.

When insecticides are applied, any residue left behind washes off vegetation when it rains and the runoff can go into the soil, lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater.

As for how safe they are to humans, the information varies but we've all seen the signs after application.



**PESTICIDE
APPLICATION
KEEP OFF**

The Pollinator Problem

Thousands of different species act as pollinators including bees, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths, as well as larger specimens such as hummingbirds and small mammals. Some pollinators are being killed directly by insecticides, other populations who rely on bugs as their source of food are reduced due to a lack of available food sources. Using any kind of chemical spray to eradicate insects has far reaching consequences. You have no doubt heard about the falling bee populations and the problems that it is causing worldwide. One bee can return to the hive after an outing and can be contaminated by an insecticide. That single bee can wipe out an entire colony. Not only is it a problem in natural hives, beekeepers can also lose entire apiaries costing thousands of dollars because one bee returned with insecticide on it.

When pollinator populations fall, our food chain is disrupted. Many fruit and vegetable crops rely on pollinators to keep yields abundant. It is estimated pollinators are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we take. If we lose pollinator populations, crops yields are reduced which in turn will lead to higher prices at the grocery store.



All Natural Bug Control

Encourage dragonflies to visit your yard by planting native plants that attract them such as Black-eyed Susan. Dragonflies also love to bask on rocks to stay warm so having some spots available for them to perch will help attract them. Eliminating the use of pesticides will also help the dragonflies to flourish. A single dragonfly can eat hundreds of mosquitos and blackflies a day. No wonder residents announce their arrival each spring as "the return of the McKellar Air Force".



Bats are also a great method of naturally controlling the biting insects. You can attract bats by installing a bat house.

Eliminate places where standing water exists on your property. If you have things like bird baths or kiddie pools, change the water regularly. Mosquitoes will breed in standing water.

To help with a bug free experience, use fans to circulate the air around your patio or deck. Even the slightest breeze can keep biting bugs away.

Using a non-chemical approach to insect control will help ensure you aren't inadvertently killing the beneficial insects our ecosystem so desperately needs.