
News Release

For immediate release

GOVERNMENTS WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE PEST MANAGEMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

OTTAWA, Ontario, September 13, 2007– The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, and the Honourable Pat Bell, British Columbia Minister of Agriculture and Lands, today announced a federal and provincial government investment of \$311,500 in support of two pest management projects aimed at helping to protect the environment in British Columbia.

“Canada’s New Government is pleased to support these two projects, which demonstrate our commitment to reducing the risks related to pesticide use,” said Minister Ritz, “Biocontrols training and accreditation programs will benefit BC horticulture producers while protecting the environment.”

“Service providers will have ready access to the Ministry of Environment’s *Integrated Pest Management Act* training throughout the province, which will lead to an increased number of qualified service providers,” said Minister Bell. “The Province is fully supportive of the training program for pest management service providers as another means to bridge the urban-agriculture divide.”

“Pests do not respect urban – rural boundaries,” said Bert Miles, Chair of Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF). “Urban pest management service providers deal with exactly the same insects, weeds and diseases as do farmers with cranberry, blueberry, vegetables, sod, floral and nursery operations.”

Funding of \$288,500 to the B.C. Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) will initiate a province-wide pest management accreditation and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training program, to identify companies and individuals using a high standard of pest management practices that protect the environment. An additional \$23,000 will be provided for a series of biocontrol seminars conducted by the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture, Kwantlen University College to further support the use of biological approaches to pest management.

For more information, please visit: Investment Agriculture Foundation at www.iafbc.ca; the Agricultural Environment Initiative at www.bcac.bc.ca; and ACAAF at www.agr.gc.ca/acaaf.

-2-

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BACKGROUNDER

Governments Invest in Two Pest Management Projects in British Columbia

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the British Columbia provincial government are investing a total of \$311,500 in the BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) and Kwantlen University College pest management projects.

Of this, the federal government is providing \$235,000 for the two projects through the industry-led Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C., which administers Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program.

Another \$76,500 in funding for the pest management training program is being provided under the joint federal/provincial Agriculture Environment Initiative delivered by the B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC) as part of the Agri-Food Futures Fund administered in trust by the IAF.

The BCLNA is working with the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture (ISH) who will develop and administer the accreditation and training programs. Other project partners include members of the Western Canada Turfgrass Association and the B.C. Recreation and Parks Association, a variety of community groups, and the Bullitt Foundation through the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture.