

Sustainable development

PESTICIDE PROGRAMME

2013- 2017 Regional pesticide reduction programme of the Brussels – Capital Region



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2013- 2017 REGIONAL PESTICIDE REDUCTION PROGRAMME OF THE BRUSSELS – CAPITAL REGION

PESTICIDE PROGRAMME

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INTRODUCTION

Reduction of the impact of pesticides on human health and the environment, and more generally use of pesticides compatible with sustainable development, are high-priority objectives with regard to the environment, health and the quality of life.

On the European level, these objectives have been included in the Sixth European Environmental Action Programme, and Directive 2009/128 has been adopted with a view to creating a common legal framework for attaining pesticide use compatible with sustainable development.

Transposition of this directive into Belgian law has necessitated coordination of federal jurisdictions and those of the three regions. This directive has been transposed into Brussels regional law by the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Like the Directive, the Ordinance aims for use of “pesticides” compatible with sustainable development. Like the Directive, for the time being it involves only some pesticides, phytopharmaceutical and not biocidal products.

Among other measures, this Directive provides for the establishment of National Action Plans by the member states, establishment of quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables with a view to reducing the risks and effects of pesticide use on human health and the environment, and encouragement of development and introduction of integrated crop pest management and substitution methods or techniques aimed at reducing dependence on use of phytopharmaceutical products. These Plans must be subject to public consultation and reviewed every five years.

In Belgium, the National Action Plan, called NAPAN, is composed of the federal Programme and the three regional Programmes. Each of these Programmes proposes specific actions and actions conducted in common. Coordination of the NAPAN is organised by the NAPAN Task Force (NTF) under the direction of the CIE NAPAN (Inter-ministerial Conference on the Environment [*Conférence Interministérielle de l'Environnement*], with the addition of all the other competences taken on by NAPAN, mainly health and agriculture).

This document presents the Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme of the Brussels-Capital Region, or PRRP - RBC. It includes actions specific to the Brussels region (actions identified as RBC) as well as national actions organised with the other regions and at the federal level (actions identified as BEL). These actions will be steered by Brussels Environment and are addressed to the various target publics concerned: in addition to the general public, managers of public areas, managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups, professional users of pesticides and individuals who use pesticides, etc.



LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Development of an action plan on pesticide use compatible with sustainable development is based on Directive 2009/128 of the Parliament and the Council of 21 October 2009, establishing a framework for community action to attain pesticide use compatible with sustainable development. This Directive has been transposed at the regional level by the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region.

In addition to development of an action plan, this Directive includes other measures involving regional competences; these are mainly the following measures:

- creation of a training system with certification for professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products;
- informing and raising the awareness of the general public;
- increased protection of high-risk areas, especially nature reserves, catchment areas and protected areas, Natura 2000 areas, and premises accommodating vulnerable groups;
- special measures to be observed in handling and storage of pesticides as well as treatment of their packaging and leftover products;
- promotion of production systems with low pesticide consumption and support for implementation of integrated pest management techniques;
- measurement of the progress made in risk reduction using appropriate standardised indicators;
- establishment of a system of effective, commensurate and dissuasive sanctions.

The Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region also includes provisions on pesticide use in public areas in the Region.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The draft Brussels pesticide reduction programme was submitted for public consultation from 15 January to 31 March 2013 and for the opinion of the Environmental Council (*Conseil de l'Environnement*), the Economic and Social Council (*Conseil Economique et Social*) and the Brussels Higher Council for Nature Conservation (*Conseil supérieur bruxellois de la Conservation de la Nature*); 71 recommendations were collected, allowing the quality of this action plan, as presented below, to be improved.



SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Although the scope of the Directive, like that of the Ordinance, may be expanded in the future, at present it involves only phytopharmaceutical products and not all pesticides. Correspondingly, this action plan involves mainly phytopharmaceutical products as defined below. However, some actions, especially those involving information for the general public, may also concern biocides.

From a legal point of view and in accordance with European terminology, **phytopharmaceutical products** are defined as follows: products, in the form in which they are delivered to the user, composed of active substances, plant protectors or synergists, or containing them, and intended for one of the following uses:

- to protect plants or plant products from any harmful organisms or prevent their activity, unless these products are deemed to be used mainly for reasons of hygiene rather than for protection of the plants or plant products;
- to exert an effect on the vital processes of plants, such as substances other than nutritive substances exerting an effect on their growth;
- to ensure the preservation of plant products, insofar as these substances or products are not subject to special Community provisions on preservatives;
- to destroy undesirable plants or parts of plants, with the exception of algae, unless the products are applied to the soil or water to protect plants;
- to inhibit or prevent undesirable growth of plants, with the exception of algae, unless the products are applied to the soil or water to protect plants.

Biocides are active substances and preparations containing one or more active substances, presented in the form in which they are delivered to the user, that are intended to destroy, repel or render harmless harmful organisms, prevent their action, or combat them in any other way, by chemical or biological action (Directive 98/8/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 February 1998 on marketing of biocidal products).

From a practical point of view, **phytopharmaceutical products** (PPP) are products used for protection and treatment of plants, including seeds;

Professional users are persons who use pesticides in the course of their professional activity; these are in particular operators, technicians, employers, the self-employed, and their respective subcontractors, in the agricultural sector or in other sectors. Managers of public areas are considered to be professional users.

High-risk sensitive areas include, on the one hand, premises and establishments frequented by vulnerable groups, and on the other hand, protected areas such as Natura 2000 areas, forest reserves and catchment areas.

Premises and establishments frequented by vulnerable groups are specified by the Directive; these are areas commonly frequented by students within educational establishments, or by children within child-care infrastructures, play areas intended for children, areas set up for consumption of food and drink, or establishments that accommodate persons for care or elderly or handicapped persons.

Abbreviations:

PRRP-RBC: *Programme d'action régional de réduction des pesticides de la RBC*, Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme of the Brussels-Capital Region

PFRP: *Programme fédéral de réduction des pesticides*, Federal Pesticide Reduction Programme

NAPAN: *Nationaal Actie Plan d'Action National*, National Action Plan

NAPAN Task Force (NTF): coordination body for the federal authority and the Belgian federated entities, the mission of which is to propose the NAPAN to the authorities and to ensure its coordinated implementation.

CIE NAPAN: *conférence interministérielle de l'environnement*, Inter-ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the addition of the other competences related to pesticides, mainly public health and agriculture.

PPP: Phytopharmaceutical product



OBJECTIVES OF THE 2013-2017 REGIONAL PESTICIDE REDUCTION PROGRAMME – RBC

The PRRP – RBC aims to reduce the health and environmental risks related to pesticide use, in particular by reducing recourse to pesticides and giving priority to alternate methods and techniques. It aims to strongly reduce pesticide use in the regional territory by both managers of public areas and private individuals.

The 2013-2017 PRRP – RBC aims primarily to ensure implementation of the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region and adoption of measures for raising awareness and informing the various parties concerned. This ordinance must be implemented in coordination with other measures resulting from other regulations, such as those aiming to protect nature, surface water, groundwater, water intended for human consumption, and soil.

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES

1. INTRODUCTION

The PRRP - RBC includes 35 actions designated “RBC” and six actions designated “BEL” that will be conducted in coordination with the federal level and the other regions. The actions are presented in the same order as those listed in the federal Programme (entitled PFRP) to facilitate reader comprehension.

For more information on the federal Programme, see:

<http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Environment/Chemicalsubstances/PRPB/index.htm?fodnlang=fr>.

2. CERTIFICATION OF THE PROFICIENCY OF PROFESSIONAL USERS OF PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

In the framework of transposition of Directive 2009/128, the federal level, in collaboration with the regions, must develop a system for certification of proficiency with regard to phytopharmaceutical products for all professional users (including vendors). The ‘phytolicence’ is a certificate of proficiency required for all those using, selling or advising on plant protection products. It is planned that the federal phytolice secretariat is to issue the phytolice starting in September 2013 to all applicants who fulfil the conditions of the Royal Decree of 19 March 2013 to attain use of phytopharmaceutical products and adjuvants compatible with sustainable development.

In the context of distribution of competences, it has been decided that the federal level is to issue phytolices and the regions are to organise training as well as examinations authorising the phytolice. Some basic training organised by the communities also authorises the phytolice.

Any phytolice granted by the federal authorities is valid throughout Belgian territory.



Action RBC 2.1 Application of the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region

The action aims to adopt the legal bases necessary for establishment of the training and examination system for obtaining phytolices issued at the federal level. It involves issuing a decree for organising the basic training and examination allowing acquisition and certification of sufficient proficiency with regard to phytopharmaceutical products to obtain a phytolice issued at the federal level.

The Phytolice is a certificate of proficiency required for all persons who use, sell or advise on phytopharmaceutical products in a professional context. It is also necessary for purchasing professional phytopharmaceutical products.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and the Government of the BCR
Target	Professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products
Period	2013 - 2014
Proposed indicators	Adoption and publication of measures

Action RBC 2.2 Organisation of the initial training authorising acquisition of phytolices

The action aims to organise basic training and basic examinations authorising acquisition of phytolices. It involves developing basic training programmes corresponding to the various phytolices, including at a minimum the material appearing in Annex I of Directive 2009/128, seeking and reaching agreements with training organisations, and establishing an evaluation procedure for the knowledge acquired during basic training.

Although practical experience in use of phytopharmaceutical products will allow an initial phytolice to be obtained, participation of all professional users of plant protection products in this training will be encouraged in order to allow everyone to update their knowledge on both use of phytopharmaceutical products and alternate methods, techniques and products to use of phytopharmaceutical products.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and subcontractors
Target	Professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	<p>Training programmes Agreement with training centres Authorisation of training centres Evaluation procedure established</p> <p><u>After establishment of initial training:</u> Number of participants in the initial training Number of participants who have passed the basic examination</p>



Action RBC 2.3 Organisation of continuing training for renewal of basic phytolicesences

The action aims to organise a system of continuing training allowing phytolicesences to be maintained. It involves developing continuing training programmes and recognising, seeking and reaching agreement with training centres. It must also establish a procedure certifying regular attendance and/or the knowledge acquired during the continuing training.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and subcontractors
Target	Professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products
Period	Starting in 2015
Proposed indicators	Training programmes Agreements with training centres Authorisation of training centres Evaluation procedure established <u>After establishment of continuing training:</u> Number of participants in continuing training

Action RBC 2.4 Interregional cooperation agreement for training farmers

The action consists of developing and signing a cooperation agreement with the other regions for training Brussels agricultural professionals (farmers, horticulturists, etc.) to allow them to follow training adapted to their needs.

Participant(s)	Brussels Government
Target	Brussels farmers
Period	2014
Proposed indicators	Cooperation agreement



Action RBC 2.5 Informing the target publics of the requirements for phytolicences

The action aims to inform all vendors, advisors, and professional users of phytopharmaceutical products of their obligations with regard to training and the phytolicense as well as the practical aspects relating to these matters via letters, information sessions, a helpdesk, and a web page on the IBGE site. Specifically, it will be necessary to establish a database listing the contact information for the persons and sectors concerned, send letters, organise information sessions, create web pages on the Brussels Environment site, publish informative articles on the sites and in specialised periodicals, and staff a helpdesk.

Participants(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products
Period	2013 - 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of information sessions and number of participants Web pages and number of consultations Number of articles Number of calls to the helpdesk

Action RBC 2.6 Coordination

The action aims to coordinate all the work relating to training and examinations organised with a view to obtaining phytolices as well as the contacts on these matters with the federal level and the other regions. A coordination centre will be established at Brussels Environment. This centre will in particular send administrative data on follow-up of the initial and continuing training and, as necessary, success or failure in the examination dealing with acquisition of knowledge/skills at the end of this training, to the federal authorities.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	
Period	Starting as of the end of 2013
Proposed indicators	Coordination centre



Action RBC 2.7 Evaluation of the cost of phytolicesences

This involves evaluating the cost of organisation of the basic and initial training as well as the basic examinations, and evaluating the feasibility and pertinence of establishing systems (for example, licence fee, etc.) to cover this cost. This analysis will incorporate the costs for the municipalities, public interest organisations and companies that must send their personnel for training.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and subcontractors
Target	
Period	2013-2014
Proposed indicators	Analysis report

3. CONDITIONS ON THE SALE OF PRODUCTS

Measures for action relating to conditions on the sale of phytopharmaceutical products are under federal jurisdiction.

4. RAISING THE AWARENESS OF AND INFORMING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

A major objective and challenge of this action programme is to raise the awareness of the entire Brussels public. In fact, although the most of the risk is due to products for professional use, repeated and inappropriate, sometimes daily, routine use of pesticides for non-professional use can entail risks to human health, fauna and the environment. It is thus essential to make the general public aware of the risks related to pesticide use and inform them of methods, techniques and products allowing recourse to chemical pesticides to be reduced or even eliminated. This information should also deal with storage and correct use of pesticides as well as disposal of the remains of pesticide packaging so as to minimise the risks incurred to human health, fauna and the environment from occasional use of pesticides.

A great deal of information already exists; therefore an evaluation of the existing information and information resources will be conducted before making the decision to create new resources.



Action BEL3.1 Informing non-professional users at points of sale

The objective of this action is to guarantee users of non-professional products balanced information at the point of sale with regard to proper conditions for use and risks to public health and the environment. An agreement will be sought at the CIE_{NAPAN} level on the subject of information that should be required at the point of sale. The legislation will be adapted to make this information mandatory. Balanced information should be available at the location of any sale of phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products for non-professionals. This information should deal with the risks of use of phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products to human health and the environment, especially hazards, exposure, appropriate storage conditions and the instructions to be observed in handling, application and safe disposal of leftover pesticides and their packaging in compliance with community legislation on waste, as well as low-risk substitution solutions. The action consists of specifying the minimum information that should be available at the location of sale and the ways in which the information should be delivered. This information will be specified in 2017 at the latest by the members of the NAPAN Task Force, each according to its competences. The Advisory Council of the NAPAN Task Force will be consulted on this topic. The information will be validated by the CIE_{NAPAN}.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment, the cabinet of the Minister for the Environment in collaboration with the federal level and the other regions
Target	General public
Period	2017 at the latest (to be specified at the NTF)
Proposed indicators	Information present at points of sale % of points of sale involved offering relevant information to their customers

Action RBC 4.1 **Establish a differentiated management centre coordinated by Brussels Environment**

This regional pesticide reduction programme aims to reduce the risks to health and the environment related to pesticide use, especially by reducing recourse to pesticides and giving priority to alternate methods and techniques. Development of these techniques and methods and their dissemination to all those who are faced with plant protection problems thus constitute major issues.

The research, awareness and informative activities provided in the framework of this Reduction Programme will be coordinated by a differentiated management centre developed within Brussels Environment, working in close collaboration with the research sector, the municipalities and the non-profit sector.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in collaboration with the research sector, the municipalities and the non-profit sector
Target	All those concerned with development of gardens and green spaces as well as plant protection problems
Period	As of 2013
Proposed indicators	Indicators demonstrating the activity of this centre, related to performance of the planned actions with regard to research, awareness, information Creation of the differentiated management centre



Action RBC 4.2 Develop a communication plan on pesticide prevention (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products)

A communication strategy will be developed to communicate effectively and efficiently in a way suited to the various target publics. This strategy will specify objectives, target publics, messages, media, and planning. This strategy will be developed in a transversal way to coordinate the various policies and action programmes involved as well as those existing on support for vegetable gardens, water management, protection of nature, etc. Independent experts will be consulted, especially in regard to standards and regulations.

Although the action will initially involve mainly phytopharmaceutical products, it will progressively include biocides in connection with implementation of the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region,.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	General public
Period	As of 2013 for phytopharmaceutical products
Proposed indicators	Validated communication strategy

Action RBC 4.3 Development of the expertise necessary for properly informing the public

This involves development of the scientific and technical expertise necessary for production of material for raising the awareness of and informing the various publics concerned (professional and non-professional users of pesticides, managers of public spaces, vendors and advisors, the general public, etc.). This expertise involves a vast area including risks related to pesticide use, preventive and curative methods, products and techniques allowing pesticide use to be reduced, and integrated crop pest management. Risk analyses will also be conducted for these alternate methods and techniques.

The action will consist of entrusting the development of technical fact sheets to a specialised research team. This action will be preceded by an inventory of the existing information and sources of information in order to target additional research on the missing or poorly documented information.

Certain subjects will be given priority for examination, in particular development of gardens and public areas not necessitating pesticides, and weed control techniques, especially on paved surfaces.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + contract
Target	Research organisations
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number and quality of fact sheets developed



Action RBC 4.4 Promotion of methods of substitution and rational use of phytopharmaceutical products via a brochure and/or leaflet for the general public

The action aims to raise the awareness of and inform the general public on the risks related to use of phytopharmaceutical products, alternate methods, rational use of the least hazardous products, and management of phytopharmaceutical product waste and packaging of phytopharmaceutical products. It will consist of development of a brochure and/or leaflet intended for the general public, which may be published in paper format and/or distributed via the web. This is to involve basic resources, accessible to everyone, centred on practical advice and suitable for ornamental gardens as well as fruit and vegetable gardens. A great deal of information already exists; therefore an evaluation of the existing information and information resources will be conducted before making the decision to create new resources. These resources will be distributed by Brussels Environment, but also by means of collaborations with associations, the CRIPI ('green ambulance'), *maisons de l'énergie* (energy houses), the municipalities, public interest organisations, etc.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + contract
Target	Grand public
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Brochure developed Number of brochures distributed

Action RBC 4.5 Promotion of development of gardens not requiring pesticide use

The objective of this action is to raise the awareness of and inform the general public, in particular households with a garden, on garden layouts, plant species and techniques that allow use of phytopharmaceutical products to be avoided and/or reduced. The action will consist of developing or updating a folder and/or brochure intended for the general public, which can be published in paper format and/or distributed via the web. The folder and brochure are to specifically focus on garden concepts and layouts that allow recourse to pesticides to be avoided. A great deal of information already exists; therefore an evaluation of the existing information and information resources will be conducted before making the decision to create new resources.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + contract
Target	General public, households with a garden or gardening in other areas
Period	Starting in 2015
Proposed indicators	Brochure developed Number of brochures distributed



Action RBC 4.6 Raising the awareness of and informing the general public via the Brussels Environment website

The action aims to raise the awareness of the general public on risks related to pesticide use and inform them on substitution methods, rational use of pesticides, and management of pesticide wastes. This will involve developing, updating and supplementing the “general public” web pages on the Brussels Environment site with regard to risks related to pesticide use, alternate methods to pesticide use, proper choice and use of pesticides, and disposal of leftover pesticides and packaging waste – starting in particular from the content of the general-public brochures (see Actions 4.4 and 4.5). These resources for awareness are to be developed in coordination with those developed in other settings, like training in urban market gardening, activities promoting maintenance of biodiversity in gardens, etc. Although this action will mainly involve phytopharmaceutical products, it will progressively include biocides in accordance with the implementation of the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Participants(s)	Brussels Environment + contract
Target	Grand public
Period	Starting in 2015
Proposed indicators	Number of web pages developed Number of web pages updated Number of visitors

Action RBC 4.7 Support for awareness activities of community groups for the general public

Many environmental groups can play an intermediary role in raising the awareness of, informing and educating the various publics. The action aims to support community group projects developed to increase public awareness of risks related to pesticide use (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products) and inform them of alternate methods.

The action aims to grant financial support to innovative community group projects that are fruitful in terms of increasing public awareness of risks related to pesticide use and alternate methods and techniques.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in partnership with the non-profit sector (contracts, subsidies, etc.)
Target	General public
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Number of activities conducted Number of people reached by the activities



Action RBC 4.8 Call for “exemplary management”

This involves collecting examples of good practices among the public, businesses, schools, public authorities, etc.

The objective of this call is to demonstrate that it is possible to maintain outdoor areas (garden, vegetable garden, orchard, patio, etc.) without having recourse to phytopharmaceutical products. The action helps raise awareness, inform the public and promote good practices. Good practices are recognised and promoted to the general public.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	General public, business, public authorities, etc.
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of examples collected Number of examples selected

Action RBC 4.9 “General public” awareness campaign

To make the general public aware of risks related to storage and use of pesticides (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products) and the existence of alternate solutions, an awareness campaign will be organised on an annual basis. This media campaign will take place during, and will support, the “Week without Pesticides”.

Although this action will mainly involve phytopharmaceutical products, it will progressively incorporate biocides in connection with implementation of the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region.



Action 4.10 Organisation of the Week without Pesticides

The objective of this action is to raise awareness of the entire public through a week of campaigning and activities, the Week without Pesticides. All concerned parties in Brussels are invited to participate in a number of activities and events taking place the same week. All associations, businesses, administrations, schools and private individuals are invited to propose activities for this week.

Brussels Environment coordinates and develops the activities proposed. An awareness campaign is to be organised in support of this week (see Action RBC 4.10). This campaign is to be organised in collaboration with the non-profit sector.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + call for proposals + partnership with associations
Target	General public
Period	Annually starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Production of the campaign: indicators of resources such as number of adverts, posters, etc. % of the public affected by the campaign (if a post-test is conducted)

Action RBC 4.11 Training of intermediaries

The action aims to expand the resources for increasing the awareness of the general public by training intermediaries in contact with the general public. It consists of developing and introducing awareness modules into the existing training organised by Brussels Environment for master composters and master gardeners.

Other training courses into which this awareness module could be inserted (for example, training for eco-advisors) will also be sought.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + call for proposals
Target	Intermediaries
Period	Starting in 2015
Proposed indicators	Number of intermediaries trained

Action RBC 4.12 Ecological gardening charter

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in partnership with Brussels participants: associations, administrations, businesses, schools, etc.
Target	Entire Brussels public
Period	Annually starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of activities conducted by the non-profit sector Number of persons affected by the non-profit activities



This involves eliminating the use of phytopharmaceutical products in vegetable gardens receiving support from the Region (gardening plots made available to the public by Brussels Environment and other public interest organisations, collective vegetable gardens receiving a subsidy, etc.). An ecological gardening charter will be developed for this purpose. In signing this charter, a recipient of regional support for development of vegetable gardens undertakes not to make use of phytopharmaceutical products. This charter will be published and disseminated so that it can be used by other authorities such as municipalities, CPAS (*Public Social Service Centres*), etc.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Recipients of regional support for development of vegetable gardens
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of charters signed % of recipients of regional support who have signed the charter

Action RBC 4.13 Information on management of leftover pesticides and pesticide packaging

The action aims to inform the general public on the measures to take in managing leftover pesticides (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products) and pesticide packaging safely and with respect for the environment. It consists of developing an information module to be inserted in all the other resources for raising awareness and information intended for the general public (brochures, websites, campaigns, etc.), including those developed in the framework of the Waste Plan and the European Week for Waste Reduction.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in collaboration with the Bruxelles Propreté Agency
Target	General public
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Number of resources concerned Dissemination of these various resources



5. INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR MANAGERS OF PUBLIC AREAS, PROFESSIONAL USERS OF PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND MANAGERS OF PREMISES AND BUILDINGS ACCOMMODATING VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS

The Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region includes new obligations for professional users, managers of public areas, owners and managers of nature reserves and property located in a protected catchment area, and owners and managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups. Consequently, it is important to properly inform these various parties with regard to these new obligations and support them in the change by establishing suitable measures.

Action RBC 5.1 Establishment of a differentiated management centre coordinated by Brussels Environment

See Action RBC 4.1. The differentiated management centre established at Brussels Environment is to be the first-line contact for all those confronted with questions on design, layout and maintenance of gardens and green spaces as well as phytosanitary problems, whether they are professionals or amateurs.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in collaboration with the research sector, the municipalities and the non-profit sector
Target	All those concerned by phytosanitary problems
Period	As of 2013
Proposed indicators	Indicators demonstrating the activity of this centre, related to achievement of the planned actions with regard to research, raising awareness, and information

Action RBC 5.2 Specification of the content of implementation plans for phytopharmaceutical products in public areas

This involves formulating a decree specifying the minimum content of the implementation plans for phytopharmaceutical products in public areas. These implementation plans are to be submitted by managers of public areas who wish to continue to use certain pesticides in public areas during the transition period (until 31/12/2018). Preparation of the technical aspects of this decree will be entrusted to a specialised team.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Managers of public areas
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Decree



Action RBC 5.3 Information for managers of public areas and professional users of pesticides

The action aims to identify managers of public areas and professional users of pesticides and inform them of the provisions of the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region, by means of, in particular, letters or information sessions, and to assist them in implementation of the provisions of the Ordinance. The information will also deal with this Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme.

The action consists of identifying managers of public areas and professional users of phytopharmaceutical products and sending them personalised letters. It also consists of organising information sessions for the parties concerned.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Managers of public areas and professional users of pesticides (including vendors)
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Identification of those concerned Number of letters sent Number of training sessions organised Number of participants in the training

Action RBC 5.4 Notification of those responsible for/managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups

This involves identifying and informing those responsible for/managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups of the provisions of the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region and assisting them in implementing these new provisions. The information also deals with the content of this Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme.

The action consists of identifying the parties concerned, informing them via suitable letters, and organising information sessions intended for them.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Those responsible for, and managers of, premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups.
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Identification of those concerned Number of letters sent Number of training sessions organised Number of participants in training

Action RBC 5.5 Support for managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups – Information



The objective of this action is to develop and disseminate technical and practical information for managers of public areas, managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups and professional users. This information should allow them to implement the provisions of the Ordinance and to make use of alternatives to chemical methods for treatment of plant protection problems.

This information is to be developed in the form of a brochure and/or web pages on the BE site. It is also to be used in organising training sessions. This information involves risks related to storage and use of phytopharmaceutical products, instructions to be observed to minimise risks to health and the environment if phytopharmaceutical products are used, disposal of leftover pesticides and pesticide packaging waste, the phytotoxicity, and initial and continuing training. It primarily stresses alternate preventive and curative methods, especially the principles of differentiated management and integrated pest control, as well as development of public and other areas allowing use of phytopharmaceutical products to be eliminated.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and call for proposals
Target	Professional users of pesticides (including vendors), managers of public areas, those responsible for and managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups
Period	2015
Proposed indicators	Information number of brochures distributed number of consultations of the web pages number of training sessions number of participants in training sessions

Action RBC 5.6 Support for managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups – Exchange network

This action aims to organise networking for managers of public areas, professional users, managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups and public bodies such as the SNCB, STIB, TEC, De Lijn, the Public Buildings Administration (*Régie des bâtiments*), SPF, CPAS, social housing corporations, land management agencies, VIVAQUA, Infrabel, etc., in order to be able to resolve questions/problems, exchange information, inform on alternate methods and techniques, share good practices, etc.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and call for proposals
Target	Professional users of pesticides (including vendors), managers of public areas, those responsible for and managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups
Period	2014
Proposed indicators	Number of meetings Other indicators to be developed if the network is supported by a computer network

Action RBC 5.7 Support for managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups – Helpdesk



Establishment of a helpdesk aims to concretely assist and answer individual questions from managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups. This helpdesk will be staffed either by Brussels Environment or by a non-profit or university partner designated after a call for proposals. It is envisaged that the helpdesk will subsequently be made available to the entire population.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and call for proposals
Target	Professional users of pesticides (including vendors), managers of public areas, those responsible for and managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups
Period	2014
Proposed indicators	Helpdesk Number of consultations of the helpdesk

6. MONITORING INTOXICATIONS

Detection and monitoring of intoxications should allow the data necessary for evaluation of risks, management of these risks and development of preventive measures to be developed. This action is handled at the federal level.

7. INSPECTION OF APPLICATION EQUIPMENT FOR PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Measures on inspection of application equipment for phytopharmaceutical products are under federal jurisdiction.

8. AERIAL SPRAYING

Measures on aerial spraying are under federal jurisdiction.



9. PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND SPECIAL AREAS WITH REGARD TO PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Directive 2009/128 requires that measures be taken to protect the aquatic environment as well as certain special areas at increased risk (nature reserves, Natura 2000 areas, catchment areas. etc.). Therefore the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region prohibits the use of phytopharmaceutical products, except in the context of very precise derogations, in such areas.

Other legal and regulatory provisions also contribute to reducing the risks incurred by pesticide use; these are mainly provisions concerning water and nature. These other measures are not included in this programme, but it is obvious that the measures proposed in this programme are developed in coordination with and are consistent with these other measures. This involves in particular measures taken in the context of regulation on protection of surface water, groundwater, and water intended for human consumption, those on conservation of nature and those on soil protection.

As a reminder:

1. Surface water:

- Specific measures to prevent surface water pollution were adopted by the government decree of 12 July 2012 approving the Water Management Plan (*Plan de Gestion de l'eau*, PGE) of the Brussels-Capital Region in application of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC); consult in particular item 1 of the programme of measures of the PGE: to take action on pollutants to achieve water quality objectives (for examples, see priority actions 9 and 25).
- The decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 24 March 2011 establishes environmental quality standards, basic quality standards and chemical standards for surface water with regard to pollution caused by certain hazardous substances and other pollutants. These standards indicate an annual average or a maximum concentration not to be exceeded for certain pesticides. Additional protective measures (stepped-up monitoring programme, targeted reduction programme) may be adopted if pesticides are reported in surface water.

2. Groundwater:

- Some measures in the Programme of Measures of the PGE directly involve combating pesticides in groundwater (priority action 27, for example).
- The decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 10 June 2010 on protection of groundwater from pollution and deterioration (Annex II. A.) mandates quality standards and threshold values for groundwater.
- The programme of measures in the Water Management Plan provides for carrying out the following actions:
 - Definition and measurement of the “good condition” of groundwater for the Brussels-Capital Region (action OO.1.1.3)
 - Minimisation or elimination of pollutant discharges into groundwater (action OO 1.3.1)
 - Prevention and management of accidental disruptions of the groundwater (OO.1.3.3).

3. Water intended for human consumption:

The protective measures result from the following texts:

- The Royal Decree of 18 September 1987 on protection of groundwater in the Brussels Region from pollution caused by certain hazardous substances
- The Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 19 September 2002 delimiting the protected areas for groundwater catchment in the Bois de la Cambre and the Drève de Lorraine in the Forest of Soignes
- The Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 24 January 2002 on the quality of water distributed by the network, including Annex 1, part B, sets standards for certain chemical parameters in drinking water.



4. Nature conservation:

- The Ordinance of 1 March 2012 on nature conservation prohibits the use and storage of pesticides in nature reserves and forest reserves (Article 27). It authorises the government to adopt other prohibitions.
- Conservation objectives are set for the three Natura 2000 sites, to appear in the site designation decrees.

5. Soil protection:

- The Ordinance of 5 March 2009 on management and cleanup of polluted soil establishes the obligation to conduct a soil status survey and, if necessary, to treat soil pollution at the time of start-up, transfer or cessation of activity of any pesticide storage. Treatment of pesticide-polluted soil or groundwater aims to prevent any risk of exposure to human health and the environment (ecosystems, surface water, groundwater, nature reserves, etc.).
- Intensive and regular monitoring is organised to avoid any reuse of soil contaminated by pesticides on other Brussels sites.

Action RBC 9.1 Identification of the owners and occupants of property located in high-risk sensitive areas

The action aims to identify owners and occupants of property located in catchment areas, protected areas and other high-risk sensitive areas. A database will be established in order to be able to contact these owners and occupants and inform them of the obligations resulting from the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region. This action will be conducted in coordination with the measure of the water management programme that provides for identification of persons living in a catchment area for water intended for human consumption. It will also be conducted in coordination with Action 5.4 (Notification of those responsible for/managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups).

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Parties targeted by the draft ordinance: owners of property located in high-risk sensitive areas
Period	End of 2013
Proposed indicators	Number of contacts entered Number of updates performed following a change of ownership



Action RBC 9.2 Informing and raising awareness of occupants of property located in high-risk sensitive areas

The persons identified in Action 9.1 will be contacted and informed of their new obligations. On this occasion they will also receive technical and practical information on awareness. This information should allow them to implement the provisions of the Ordinance and make use of alternatives to chemical methods for treatment of plant protection problems.

This information is to be developed in the form of brochures and information sessions. This information involves risks related to pesticide use, prohibitions of use in specific areas, and alternate methods to pesticide use. This information also deals with the principles of integrated pest management and development of outdoor areas allowing use of phytopharmaceutical products to be eliminated. This action is coordinated with Action 5.4 ((Notification of those responsible for/managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups) and Action 5.5 (Support for managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups – Information)

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Owners and managers of property located in high-risk sensitive areas
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of training sessions organised Number of participants in training Number of brochures distributed

Action RBC 9.3 Monitoring of water contamination by pesticides in catchment areas and protected areas

The action aims to implement special pesticide monitoring in catchment areas and protected areas of types I, II and III in order to estimate the impact of the measures taken in the framework of this Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme on water intended for human consumption. This system supplements the other existing monitoring systems, such as those established in the framework of the Decree of 10 June 2010 on groundwater protection.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Variation of the “pesticide” trends within catchment areas and protected areas



Action RBC 9.4 Determination of the causes of reported pollution

If proven pesticide pollution is observed in a catchment area or protected area, this will involve researching and understanding its causes, determining its risks and effects on water intended for human consumption, and proposing remedial actions. The action consists of having specialised studies conducted on a case by case basis, as necessary.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of case studies of catchment contamination

10. STORAGE AND HANDLING OF PROFESSIONAL PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

The conditions on handling and storage of pesticides for professional use should be specified and made stricter so as to limit the risks incurred by professional users of pesticides, an especially exposed population group, as well as the risks incurred by the public due to professional pesticide use in premises such as public areas and gardens.

Action RBC 10.1 Specification of the conditions to be observed in handling professional phytopharmaceutical products

This involves adapting Brussels regulations so as to fulfil the requirements of transposition of Directive 2009/128/EC, especially with regard to environmental permits and authorisations for waste transporters. The action consists of adapting the existing regulatory texts on permits and conditions to be observed to reduce risks related to storage and handling of phytopharmaceutical products. It also consists of bringing into compliance collectors of phytopharmaceutical product waste and authorising any collectors of pesticide wastes.

Participant(s)	Brussels government
Target	Professional users
Period	2014
Proposed indicators	Adapted regulations



Action BEL8.1 Inspection of storage premises

It is imperative that storage premises for phytopharmaceutical products be managed with the greatest care, observing in particular regulatory provisions. As of the entry into effect of the royal decree on sustainable use of phytopharmaceutical products, overview information on obligations will be issued to professional users and inspection checklists will be adapted as a consequence. Inspections of locations where phytopharmaceutical products are stored will be adapted to motivate professional users to bring them up to standard.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions
Target	Professional users
Budget	-
Period	As of the entry into effect of the Royal Decree on sustainable use of phytopharmaceutical products
Proposed indicators	Inclusion of the new inspection criteria in the checklists

11. PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT OBSERVATORY

Collection and processing of data on phytopharmaceutical products are necessary to establish a framework and measures allowing risks due to pesticide use to be reduced as much as possible. Collaboration between levels of jurisdiction and standardisation of methods will allow high-quality data to be made available.

Action BEL10.1 Evaluation of the possibilities of standardising methods, standards and reports resulting from the various obligations with regard to water

The action aims to standardise the methods, standards and reports on water contamination (surface & groundwater) by phytopharmaceutical products at the regional, national and European levels. Protection of water with regard to phytopharmaceutical products is the topic of several items of legislation at the European, national and regional levels. Each of these items of legislation generates its share of obligations for monitoring, standards and reports. The complexity of implementing these obligations now necessitates standardisation. The action will aim to produce an inventory of these obligations and identify the aspects that can be standardised.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions
Target	
Period	2017
Proposed indicators	Availability of the feasibility report



Action RBC 11.1 Understanding the behaviours of households with regard to purchase and use of pesticides (plant protection and biocidal products)

This involves having a survey periodically conducted among the Brussels population to identify risks due to behaviours of households, and following the variation of these behaviours. This survey will provide input on the indicators intended to measure the efficacy of the policy implemented.

In the framework of this survey, the form used will include two parts, with one part remaining identical from one survey to the next so as to be able to construct indicators and follow their variation over time; the other part will be developed as a function of particular topics related more to the current situation.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + contract with survey firms
Target	Households
Period	In 2013 for the first time, then every three years
Proposed indicators	This recurrent survey will provide input on certain indicators relating to behaviours of Brussels households with regard to pesticides (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products).

Action RBC 11.2 Understanding the behaviours of pesticide users other than households

This involves periodically conducting a survey among pesticide users other than households, and in particular among those intended by the Ordinance of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region. The objective is to identify risks due to behaviours of pesticide users other than households and to follow the variation in these behaviours. The results of these surveys will allow indicators relating to the efficacy of the measures established to be constructed and followed.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + possibly a call for proposals to survey firms
Target	Pesticide users: regional and municipal administrations, businesses
Period	In 2014 for the first time, then every three years
Proposed indicators	This recurrent survey will provide input on certain indicators relating to behaviours of pesticide users in the BCR.



12. FOLLOW-UP OF THE NAPAN

Follow-up of the implementation of the National Plan will be coordinated by the NAPAN Task Force, where the various levels of jurisdiction are represented.

Action BEL11.1 Coordinated national report

The action aims to develop a coordinated national report. Coordination will be carried out within the Napan Task Force.

At the end of the programme in 2017, a national report coordinating the specific reports of the members of the NTF will be produced and published.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions within the NTF
Target	
Period	2017
Proposed indicators	Publication of a national report

Action BEL11.2 Coordination of the NAPAN

The action aims to coordinate implementation of the NAPAN.

Definition and implementation of the operation of the NTF

As of 2013, each member of the NAPAN Task Force - the NTF- will participate in meetings in order to guarantee coordination of the NAPAN. The implementation and operation of the NTF for the 2013-2017 period will be specified in 2013 at the latest, by an ad hoc agreement.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions within the NTF
Target	
Period	2013 - 2017
Proposed indicators	Operation of the secretariat of the NTF; of the advisory board of the NAPAN



Action BEL11.3 Public consultation

During the review of the NAPAN in 2017 to establish the activities of the NAPAN for the 2018-2023 period, the public will be consulted, as provided for by the legislation on public consultation for environmental programmes. This consultation will be organised at the national level.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions
Target	General public
Period	2017
Proposed indicators	Report on the public consultation

13. MONITORING THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE OF 20 JUNE 2013 ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT COMPATIBLE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

This involves monitoring the principles applicable to use of pesticides in public areas and high-risk sensitive areas, handling and storage of pesticides and treatment of packaging and leftover products, etc.

Action RBC 13.1 Monitoring

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Parties intended by the Ordinance; managers of public areas, professional users of pesticides, owners and managers of property located in high-risk sensitive areas
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of dossiers Number of actions



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