

KOOTENAY LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

# Fencing Policy

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Kootenay Mountain Grown

October 2008

## Fencing Policy

It is acknowledged that the use of any fence post creates ecological destruction.

Untreated fence posts require the cutting down of trees, which disturbs and destroys natural habitat.

Metal fence post require the inordinate use of energy, both in production and transport and ecological devastation in the mining and processing.

Concrete is the same.

Plastic, even recycled plastic, and fibreglass are probably more toxic to the environment than any other product manufactured.

Treated fence posts create toxic waste and can leach into the soil.

All decisions regarding fencing need to take into account that as organic growers, the Kootenay Local Agricultural Society / Kootenay Mountain Grown require the least impact on the environment of any decision made.

### External or farmed area perimeter fences

It is recommended that where possible, untreated wooden fence posts or metal fence posts be used as the perimeter fence. However, the use of concrete, fibreglass or plastic fence posts are allowed.

If because of high wildlife pressure or other reasonable reason\*, the use of treated fence posts is indicated or required, they may be used in accordance with the list in Appendix A.

The use of treated perimeter fencing requires the notification in writing to the Kootenay Local Agricultural Society and discussion of the circumstances with a director of the Kootenay Local Agricultural Society, prior to installation.

If the installation of treated fence posts is allowed by the society, a 6 foot buffer zone between the existing treated fence posts and crops harvested for human consumption must be maintained.

\*(In this context, reasonable reason would be insupportable financial cost, swampy land or unavailability of alternatives.)

### Internal farm fences

It is recommended that where possible, untreated wooden fence posts<sup>^</sup> or metal fence posts be used within the farm area. However, the use of concrete, fibreglass or plastic fence posts are allowed.

Inside the perimeter of the farm, the use of treated fence posts or reuses of treated fence posts are prohibited.

Where treated fence posts are already in use, removal is not required, but a 6 foot buffer zone between the existing treated fence posts and crops harvested for human consumption must be maintained.

<sup>^</sup> (See appendix B)

## Appendix A

### Chemicals Used as wood preservatives

The following compounds have been used, with various degrees of success, to preserve fence posts. Use by Kootenay Local Agricultural Society / Kootenay Mountain Grown farms is indicated in the right hand column.

<p><b>Alkaline Copper Quaternary (ACQ):</b> Alkaline Copper Quaternary Ammonium (ACQ®) is a wood preservative—containing copper and quaternary ammonium compound (quat) as active ingredients—that protects against rot, decay, and termite attack. There are two kinds of ACQ: ACQ Type B (ACQ-B) and ACQ Type D (ACQ-D). ACQ-B is formulated using ammoniacal copper and ACQ-D is formulated using amine copper. The compositions of both kinds of ACQ by weight are copper oxide 66.7% and quat 33.3%</p>	<p><b>Restricted – Perimeter fencing only. Buffer 6ft from crops.</b></p>
<p><b>Ammoniacal copper citrate (ACC):</b> Ammoniacal copper citrate is a solution of copper oxide and citric acid (62.3:35.8) in aqueous ammonia.</p>	<p><b>Restricted – Perimeter fencing only. Buffer 6ft from crops.</b></p>
<p><b>Asphalt emulsion:</b> Asphalt is a black to dark brown solid or semisolid composed primarily of bitumens.</p>	<p><b>Prohibited</b></p>
<p><b>Boliden salts:</b> This preservative contains arsenic acid, sodium arsenate, sodium dichromate, and zinc sulfate dissolved in water.</p>	<p><b>Prohibited</b></p>
<p><b>Carbolineum :</b> Carbolineum, or anthracene oils, is a coal-tar distillate, but its exact composition is unknown. The specific gravity and boiling range are higher for carbolineum than for ordinary coaltar creosote.</p>	<p><b>Prohibited</b></p>
<p><b>Chemonite (ammoniacal copper arsenate, ACA)</b> (restricted-use pesticide, but wood treated with this chemical is not restricted): Chemonite is a solution of copper oxide and arsenic pentoxide (49.8:52.2) in ammonia.</p>	<p><b>Prohibited</b></p>
<p><b>Chemonite II (ammoniacal copper zinc arsenate, ACZA):</b> Chemonite II is a solution of copper, zinc, and arsenic (50:25:25) in aqueous ammonia.</p>	<p><b>Prohibited</b></p>
<p><b>Chromated copper arsenate (CCA)</b> Chromated copper arsenate is a water soluble mixture of chromium trioxide, copper oxide, and arsenic pentoxide. In CCA Type C, the most commonly used formulation, these chemicals are mixed in a ratio of 47.5:18.5:34.0. Wood treated with CCA is commonly sold under trade names such as Outdoor Wood, Wolmanized Wood, and Sunwood.</p>	<p><b>Restricted – Perimeter fencing only. Buffer 6ft from crops.</b></p>
<p><b>Chromated zinc chloride :</b> This preservative contains zinc chloride and sodium dichromate (~82:18) in a water solution.</p>	<p><b>Prohibited</b></p>
<p><b>Copper azole (CBA)</b> is a wood preservative with active ingredients of copper, boric acid, and tebuconazole (azole), a synthetic organic carbon product used in fungicides. Copper azole has 49% copper as CU, 49% boron as boric acid, and 2% azole as tebuconazole dissolved in a solution of ethanolamine in water</p>	<p><b>Restricted – Perimeter fencing only. Buffer 6ft from crops.</b></p>

<b>Copper naphthenate:</b> Solutions of this oil-soluble copper salt of naphthenic acid should contain 2% copper by weight.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Creosote, creosote oil, or coal-tar creosote:</b> These distillates of coal tar are produced by high-temperature carbonization of bituminous coal. They consist principally of liquid and solid aromatic hydrocarbons, as well as appreciable quantities of tar acids and tar bases. Their continuous boiling point begins near 200°C and ranges to at least 325°C.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Creosote mixtures:</b> Creosote may be mixed in various proportions with coal tar, petroleum, crankcase oil, or other diluents that act as carriers for the creosote.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Gasco creosote :</b> This distillate of tar residue from asphalt-based petroleum oils was a by product of the production of artificial fuel gas.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Osmosalts:</b> This proprietary wood preservative contains sodium fluoride, sodium dichromate, dinitrophenol, and sometimes arsenic.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Pentachlorophenol:</b> This is an oil-soluble chemical formed from phenol and chlorine. Solutions usually contain 5%–7.5% pentachlorophenol by weight.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Permatol “A”:</b> Pentachlorophenol is the toxic constituent of this preservative, which was developed by the Western Pine Association for the millwork industry.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Salt and corrosive:</b> This is a mixture of equal proportions, by weight, of two water-soluble compounds. The extremely poisonous mercuric chloride, or corrosive sublimate, is the toxic chemical.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Salt, corrosive sublimate, and arsenious oxide</b> (not recommended as a preservative): This is a mixture of equal proportions, by weight, of the three chemicals. The water-soluble arsenious oxide apparently contributes little, if anything, to the effectiveness of the highly toxic corrosive sublimate.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Sodium pentachlorophenolate:</b> This is a water-soluble sodium salt of pentachlorophenol.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Sodium trichlorophenolate :</b> This is a water-soluble salt of trichlorophenol.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Tanalith (Wolman salts) :</b> Normally, this proprietary wood preservative contains sodium fluoride, dinitrophenol, sodium chromate, and sodium arsenate dissolved in water.	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Treater dust, granular treater dust, and treater paste :</b> These preservatives were produced by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company (Butte, MT) as byproducts of copper smelting. Arsenic trioxide was the principal toxic component of the preservatives, which were sold in dust, granular, and paste forms	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>Zinc chloride:</b> This compound has been used in a 2%–5% water solution.	<b>Restricted – Perimeter fencing only. Buffer 6ft from crops.</b>
<b>Zinc meta-arsenite :</b> This preservative is made by dissolving zinc oxide and arsenic trioxide in water acidified with acetic acid.	<b>Prohibited</b>

## Appendix B

Wood	Wood Untreated Life (years)	
	Sandy soil	Clay soil
Cedar (1st growth)	20 - 30	10 – 15
Cedar (2nd growth)	8 - 12	3 – 6
Tamarak	10 - 15	4 – 5
White Pine	8 - 12	2 – 4
Douglas Fir	7 - 12	2 – 4
Birch	5 - 10	2 – 5
Willow	5 - 8	Not recommended - will root
Ponderosa Pine	4 - 14	2 – 3
Lodgepole Pine	4 – 12	2 – 3
Spruce	4 - 6	2 – 3
Poplar	3 - 5	< 2