



HEALTH & THE LAWN

- 1) The vast majority of lawn care chemicals currently on the market have not been fully tested for their long-term effects on the environment.
- 2) EPA approval of a lawn care product is in no way a finding of product safety.
- 3) Widespread medical consensus concludes that lawn pesticides are not safe to apply around young children. The Journal of Public Health reported that children who live in homes where weed and insect killers are used are 4 to 5 times more likely to develop cancer.
- 4) A Purdue study showed that dogs are far more likely to get certain kinds of cancers when exposed to lawn chemicals.
- 5) A Defenders of Wildlife study showed that of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides: 16 are toxic to birds, 24 are toxic to fish and aquatic organisms and 11 are deadly to bees.
- 6) The National Cancer Institute reported that lawn care professionals are three to seven times more likely to acquire non-Hodgkins lymphoma than the national average.
- 7) The NCI also showed that lawn pesticide applicators are 2 to 3 times as likely to suffer prostate cancer.
- 8) A study in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine showed that golf course superintendents are twice as likely to suffer brain cancer, while non-Hodgkin's lymphoma also occurred at over twice the national average. Prostate cancer occurred at nearly 3 times the national average and large intestinal cancer occurred at 1.75 times the national average.
- 9) A University of California study showed that children who live in homes where outdoor pesticides are applied are 6.5 times more likely to suffer leukemia.
- 10) Numerous studies, including one at California State, showed the adults who have suffered ill effects from pesticide poisoning are likely to suffer long-term difficulties with their immune systems.
- 11) The National Academy of Sciences reports that at least one out of seven people are significantly harmed by pesticide exposure each year with symptoms ranging from headaches, nausea and fever, to breathing difficulties, seizures, eye pains, vomiting, cramps and diarrhea. Long-term consequences include lowered fertility, birth defects, miscarriages, blindness, liver and kidney dysfunction, neurological damage, heart trouble, stroke, immune system disorders, menstrual problems, memory loss, suicidal depression, cancer and death.
- 12) Low-dose exposures to agricultural and lawn care pesticides may cause injury to developing embryos before a pregnancy is even noticed, according to a study conducted by researchers at Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, and being published in the May 2004 issue of Environmental Health Perspectives.
- 13) The U.S. General Accounting Office has told Congress on several occasions that the public is misled on pesticide safety by statements characterizing pesticides as "safe" or "harmless." EPA states that no pesticide is 100 percent safe.