

Gaines, Lori

From: Ron <ron@rinconvitova.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 4:51 PM
To: Parks, Linda; Bennett, Steve; Zaragoza, John; Long, Kelly; Supervisor Huber
Cc: ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard; Williams, Ed; Bell, Korinne
Subject: Answers to Bayer's Propaganda Flyer about Safety of Roundup
Attachments: Actual facts answering Bayer propaganda about Roundup.docx

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Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

Attached is the content of the double-sided flyer promoting the safety of and need for Roundup with actual facts presented in red text under each of their statements.

Note that Bayer talks about the safety of glyphosate, however, you cannot buy a jug of glyphosate. It is always mixed with additives that make it 10 to 100 times more toxic depend on the target species.

Note that most, if not all, of the studies that Bayer claims are evidence of Roundup safety were done by Monsanto for submission to the EPA and were distorted, compromised or covered up in the interest of marketing the product. EPA officials who have claimed Roundup is safe were former Monsanto employees.

In the process of discovery for the trial of Dewayne Johnson vs Monsanto, a million pages of documents were released. They reveal over two decades of deceit, collusion with regulatory agencies to down play the toxicity of Roundup, buying off testing labs and medical experts, to misrepresent the "safety" of Roundup. Basically, our government repeated Monsanto's lies to the American people. Therefore, it is unacceptable for the Agriculture Commission to say that Roundup is safe when used according to the label.

For example, Monsanto used Industrial Bio-Test (IBT) Laboratories. They were caught falsifying data. A study with such false data is the fundamental study that supports EPA registration of Roundup.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/monsanto-accused-of-fraudulent-data-in-roundup-cancer-trial/>
Watch this documentary from 20:50 minutes to 30 minutes about Monsanto's influence on the EPA, its PR campaign against IARC when it determined that Roundup is a potential carcinogen, and repeated insistence of honesty and safety by Bayer's spokesperson:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-08/the-monsanto-papers/10352384>

Studies altered by Monsanto: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/monsanto-roundup-health-canada-1.4896311>

Review of Roundup toxicity in GMO Myths and Truths on page 204 to 228 found here:

<https://livingnongmo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/GMO-Myths-and-Truths-edition2.pdf>

and at <http://earthopensource.org/>

Ron Whitehurst, Licensed Pest Control Adviser

yours,
Ron

I. Facts about Glyphosate from Monsanto/Bayer

Actually, notes from real science exposing the marketing hype or 'tobacco science' about Roundup

Glyphosate-Based Herbicides Have a Long History of Safe Use

- More than 40 years on the market.

Actually: Many years of denying the toxicity, falsifying lab data, hiding studies that show health risks, and attacking scientists that raise concerns about Roundup

- When it comes to safety assessments, no other pesticide has been more extensively tested than glyphosate with more than 800 safety studies submitted to regulators.

Actually: Most of these "studies" are paid contributions to trade journals that have a very low journalistic standard. If you read their safety studies, there is evidence of harm and all of their references are to other bad studies. Some of these studies in respectable science journals are done by scientists supported by Monsanto. Watch Jeffrey Smith's documentary film *Scientists Under Attack*. He says, "Monsanto made a science of doing bad science." In animal studies, negative results show up after 90 days. That is why all of Monsanto's safety studies end before 90 days.

- The US EPA recently reaffirmed there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used properly.

Actually: Evidence from decades of Freedom of Information Act requests shows that the US EPA does not tell the truth. This evidence is documented in Steven Druker's Altered Genes, Twisted Truth. This year damning evidence has led jury trials to levy massive punitive damages for lies about safety under EPA's watch. Top EPA officials are former (or future) Monsanto/Bayer employees.

- No regulatory agency in the world has concluded that glyphosate is a carcinogen. Glyphosate has been approved for use in 160 countries.

Actually: The State of California lists glyphosate as a carcinogen. With the additives in Roundup the product is 10 to 100 times more toxic, depending on the target organism.

- The 2018 Agricultural Health Study, the largest epidemiologic study on glyphosate-based herbicides supported by the U.S. National Cancer Institute, followed over 50,000 licensed pesticide applicators for 20 years (1997-2017), found no associations between glyphosate use and cancer risk.

Actually: Now with three judgments against Monsanto/Bayer for causing Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cancer, 20,000 more people with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are lining up to sue.

- Glyphosate works by inhibiting a specific enzyme that plants need to grow.

Actually: It is the shikimate pathway, not a single plant enzyme, that glyphosate affects. This is an essential biochemical pathway in most microbes (bacteria, yeast, protozoa). We cannot live without the microbes associated with the human body which out-number our cell numbers 10 to one. The DNA of those mostly beneficial microbes in and on our bodies out-number our human DNA 100 to one. Roundup in soy and corn products, baby food, bread, Cheerios, Doritos, garbanzos, wine, snack bars, etc. disrupts millions of helper bacteria that we cannot live without. Our health depends on the health of a diversity of gut bacteria that can only be supported by a diverse, non-toxic diet.

Many physicians cure many chronic diseases by restoring the health of gut bacteria by a strict organic diet (very low levels of Roundup). Pediatricians report when a child stops an organic diet, disease symptoms return. When the child returns to all organic food, the symptoms go away again. Proper animal studies attribute such disease causality to glyphosate and also to genetic modification of certain plants treated with Roundup. However, the biochemistry of glyphosate compromising the shikimate pathway incriminates Roundup as being potentially causal whether or not it is associated with GMO food. That is why it is risky to eat conventionally grown wheat, oats, barley and garbanzo beans even though they are non-GMO, because increasing amounts of Roundup is used to dry down those crops for easier harvest.

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Classification of Glyphosate

- IARC's determination is inconsistent with the overwhelming consensus of regulatory authorities and other experts around the world
- Classification does not reflect real world exposure levels which are essential to assess any risk to the human population.
- The determination is based on a cherry-picked data from prior scientific research. IARC did no research themselves and did not use complete data sets from prior studies.
- Current litigation is based largely on IARC's opinion and not on scientific studies.
- After IARC's opinion was announced in 2015, U.S. trial lawyers started running advertising campaigns to recruit people for lawsuits against Monsanto – personal injury lawyers spent over \$19 million in 2nd quarter 2019 alone to advertise for “clients” for these claims.
- **AFTER IARC's 2015 classification was made, glyphosate has undergone additional review by independent scientific bodies in Japan, the EU, Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Brazil, as well as the US EPA, none of whom have determined it to be a carcinogen.**

Actually: This is out of date. There is growing support for the IARC determination that glyphosate is a carcinogen.

II. Glyphosate's Role in Effective Integrated Vegetation Management

Fire Prevention

- A joint McClatchy/AP analysis of Cal Fire data shows that Bell Canyon and Lake Sherwood are located within “very high fire hazard severity zones”.
- Poor vegetation control is being cited by home owners who are suing the City of Redding, CA over losses suffered in the 2018 Carr Fire.
- Glyphosate is used to control vegetation along roadsides, on county-owned property and County managed flood control drainages, to assist with fire prevention and protection of surrounding private property.
- Glyphosate is a key tool in combating noxious and or invasive weed, such as Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) – see the California Invasive Plant Council's Glyphosate Policy. *Arundo* is an extreme fire hazard - Supervisor Steve Bennett even recognized how important glyphosate is to control *Arundo* and improve our water supply when he told the Ventura County Star that *Arundo* is a bigger threat to people living in the canyon than a mild herbicide carefully applied.

Actually: Invasive Weed Council meetings are sponsored by Monsanto, Dow, DuPont, and other herbicide companies and such council(s) pitch the pesticide industry line that we need these chemicals to do the job. Weed ecologists on the other hand understand how invading species may appear in disturbed ecosystems as first colonizers with functions that can correct imbalances. Weeds are indicators of damaged or marginal soil. Weeds signal the need to re-establish diversity in the ecosystem, NOT to kill the indicators of the underlying problem.

The best way to get rid of weeds is to design them out of the system. The county holds the land, water and air for the beneficial use of all. Nobody has the right to decide without a transparent public process to put toxins into the common space that may harm others. We must explore how to replace toxic chemical systems with biological control of weed pests and social systems that may include volunteer labor to implement ecosystem restoration projects.

Flood Protection/Riparian Habitat Restoration

- Keeping Ventura County's channels and natural water courses free of Arundo helps to combat floods, increase supply of available water to re-charge groundwater basins, and restore habitat for native plant species.
- The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy uses glyphosate as part of their Ventura River Watershed Arundo removal program.
- Vegetation in flood control levees creates habitat for burrowing animals, which compromises the structural integrity of levees, creating a safety risk for adjacent residential areas.

Actually: Raptors keep gophers and ground squirrels in check better and cheaper than herbicides and rodenticides. We need to explore mechanical removal and ecosystem management to remove Arundo. The use of Roundup to try to eradicate Arundo is never 100% and sometimes as low as 50% effective and always requires at least one additional treatment.

Drought/Water Supply

- 1 acre of Arundo consumes 24-acre feet of water each year (compared to only 4-acre feet of water used by native riparian vegetation). Removing Arundo from just the Santa Clara river would save 23,400 acre feet of water each year – the equivalent of providing 1,500 households with water for the year (Nature Conservancy)

Actually: Use of Roundup destroys the structure, or tilth, of the soil so that water does not infiltrate. By stopping the use of Roundup on orchards, we can infiltrate about an acre foot of water a year (with 12 inches of rainfall) on each acre of untreated land.

Maintenance of Infrastructure and Roadways

- When not effectively controlled, weeds create cracks and damage hardscapes, roadways, structures and site amenities. The use of glyphosate extends the life of these valuable community assets.

Actually: Hot water works well to kill weeds in pavement. Propane heated water has a high carbon footprint, but fixed locations like airports can use solar heated water, raised to boiling with electric heaters.

Public Safety

- Glyphosate helps keep sidewalks, trails, courts, etc. free of weeds which create surface cracks and uneven surfaces that could result in tripping hazards.
- The use of glyphosate facilitates the control of brush along roadsides that can obscure signs, intersections, and general lines of sight.

Worker Safety Challenges and Costs of Alternatives

- A decision to stop spraying glyphosate-based herbicides will increase Ventura County's staff and labor costs due to the need to use labor for mowing or hand weeding. Mowing is not only expensive, but also increases the potential for worker injury from equipment and exposure to traffic and driver injury from thrown rocks.
- Many herbicide alternatives are not as effective as glyphosate thereby requiring multiple applications at a greater overall cost. Some herbicide alternatives, such as acetic acid, can expose applicators to painful skin burns and severe eye damage.

Actually: Alternatives have not been fully analyzed for all costs (and all benefits). The County must consider the public health costs when workers (whether employees or contractors) get cancer from exposure to Roundup. Correlation studies since the mid 1970's show that sixty diseases (including many kinds of cancer) track with the steady dramatic rise in use of Roundup. Other research using time course analysis, with each individual serving as its own control, demonstrates that Roundup causes a number of diseases. Each time the test subject ate Roundup containing foods the disease symptoms returned. Each time the individual ate organic food, the symptoms went away.

There are alternative non-toxic herbicides that are more expensive. Just like with use of Roundup, there are issues with efficacy. The strategy for controlling weeds needs to be done on a case by case basis. Citric acid aka lemon juice is low risk as well as table vinegar. The County should not use concentrated 18% vinegar, because of potential acute injury. However, 18% vinegar does not cause cancer or other chronic diseases.

Impacts to Private Property

- If local agencies do not implement proper weed management, those lands increase fire risk, noxious weed movement, etc. that in turn require additional vegetation management practices on private lands.

Actually: There is dramatically increasing liability from allowing the use of Roundup as evidenced by the Long Beach Airport negotiating with Bayer for a waiver of liability. Such a waiver would not prevent a Worker's Compensation case or lawsuit and could be construed by a jury as evidence that the County knew that Roundup is not safe.

Ron Whitehurst, PCA