

Health Effects of Cut Flower Pesticides: What the Studies Show

Excerpts from Scientific Journals and Academic Studies

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- Colombia supplies 50% of U.S. cut flowers, Colombian cut floriculturists (flower industry workers) are showing an increase in the prevalence of spontaneous abortion, prematurity, and congenital malformations among their children conceived after either parent started working in floriculture. 127 different chemicals are used in these greenhouses.
M. Restrepo and colleagues at Colombia's National Institute of Health, published in the August 1990 issue of the Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health (SJWEH),
<http://www.sjweh.fi>
- Investigations of genetic mutations of floriculturists around the world showed genetic damage in over 71% of those studied.
Journal Mutation Research 543 (2003) 251-272
http://internat.martinique.free.fr/biblio/genotoxicity_of_pesticides.pdf
- Early stages of cancer (DNA adducts) can be found in 60% of long-term floriculturists.
Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis Volume 34, Issue 1, Pages 52 - 56
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/63500203/ABSTRACT>
- Costa Rica's flower industry, one of the major suppliers of cut flowers to the U.S., is responsible for direct discharge of pesticide residues into waterways, washing of pesticide equipment in waterways, and runoff reaching important aquifer recharge areas. Important aquifers are located directly in areas with extensive ornamental plant cultivation.
Journal Environmental Health Perspectives Volume 110, Number 5, May 2002
<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/members/2002/110-5/focus.html>
- "Female workers in flower greenhouses have reduced fertility due to exposures to pesticides."
Scand J Work Environ Health 2000;26(2):131-136
http://www.sjweh.fi/show_abstract.php?abstract_id=522
- "Median sperm concentration is 40% lower among men who work long-term in floral greenhouses."
Scand J Work Environ Health 2000;26(6):492-500
http://www.sjweh.fi/show_abstract.php?abstract_id=573
- "Among male floriculturist pesticide applicators, prostate cancer and testicular cancer are significantly elevated. Among females applicators, cervical cancer incidence is significantly increased."
Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine. 41(4):279-288, April 1999.
<http://www.joem.org/pt/re/joem/abstract.00043764-199904000-00010.htm;jsessionid=Df8kNh2vVfiAQRhGodIdVBcG2MRrKUoCykrCYIHWDP6baIADfG!20536934571-949856144!9001!-1>