Get Roundup Weedkiller Out of Schools

On August 10, 2018, Monsanto was ordered to pay $289.2 million after a jury found that Roundup weedkiller caused Dewayne “Lee” Johnson’s cancer. Johnson was a school groundskeeper who sprayed Roundup on school properties. He is now terminally ill with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The jury unanimously agreed that Roundup caused Johnson’ cancer, that Monsanto knew its products could cause cancer, and that Monsanto acted with “malice or oppression” when it intentionally concealed that fact.

Roundup Should be banned from school grounds. Here’s why:

**Harmful at Low Levels:** Studies show that glyphosate at levels far lower than EPA “safe levels” can affect sexual development, lead to fatty liver disease, and alter the gut microbiome.

**Multiple Health Risks:** Studies link Roundup and glyphosate to: cancer, endocrine disruption, nerve and brain damage, kidney and liver damage, behavioral issues, cell damage, disruption of the gut microbiome and metabolic pathways.

**Chronic Exposure:** Kids experience low-level chronic exposure to glyphosate based herbicides, which are found in food, rain, drinking water, soil, and on roadsides, sidewalks, parks, gardens, children’s playgrounds and school lawns.

**Children Are More Vulnerable:** Children’s bodies are less able to detoxify and expel harmful chemicals.

What the experts say about kids and pesticides

**American Academy of Pediatrics:** Says that childhood exposure to pesticides in general is associated with pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function and behavioral problems.¹ orgcns.org/2QlvqPVU

**World Health Organization:** Gave glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, its second-highest classification for cancer: 2A, a probable human carcinogen.² orgcns.org/2QI3cX8

Pesticide Action Network of North America: Says multiple studies confirm that children are more vulnerable to harm from exposure to pesticides in general. Their bodies are less able to detoxify and expel harmful chemicals. They also interact differently with their environment, including learning by touch and hand-to-mouth behaviors.³ orgcns.org/2QImbvm

What the studies show about Roundup

- Doses of glyphosate at levels the EPA says are “safe” affected the intestinal microbiome. The study focused on newborns, infants and adolescents. It noted a significant impact on the intestinal microbiome before puberty. Further studies are needed to determine whether exposure during this critical window contributes to other health problems. (Ramazzini Institute Global Glyphosate pilot study, 2018)⁴

- Glyphosate inhibits normal development of nerve cells which prevents them from functioning normally. This has numerous implications for the normal development of children, especially for the brain which is the largest collection of nerve cells in the human body. (Neuro-Toxicology, 2016)⁵

- Ultra-low doses of the glyphosate disrupted the functions of numerous genes, which resulted in changes consistent with multiple kidney and liver disease problems. (Nature, 2017)⁶

- Doses of glyphosate at levels 800 times lower than those authorized in some food or feed can cause endocrine disruption, putting children and teens at risk for cancer, obesity, infertility, and neurological disorders. (Toxicology, 2009)⁷

- Acute and chronic exposure to Roundup (the full formulation, not glyphosate or its breakdown product AMPA) induced oxidative stress resulting in neural cell death and neurotoxic effects in the hippocampus region of the brain in immature rats. Oxidative stress is one of the hallmarks of cancer and a contributing factor to many chronic diseases. (Toxicology, 2014)⁸

Resources:


Organic Consumers Association: Glyphosate Fact Sheet: orgcns.org/2Qkp9oo

Beyond Pesticides: “Alternatives to Using Pesticides in Schools”: orgcns.org/2Qkp9oo

Moms Across America: School Board 3-Minute Presentation: orgcns.org/2Qk2Fav

Online map of local pesticide laws: orgcns.org/2Qkpe2E

u.s. Right to Know: “Glyphosate: Health Concerns About the Most Widely Used Pesticide,” orgcns.org/2QjLcyb

References:


For an online version of this leaflet, with live links, go to: orgcns.org/2zPqcq6