

CT General Assembly – Children’s Committee

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill #46 – An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds

Ellen McCormick, ConnFACT and Organic lawn owner in Weston , CT  
March 6, 2014

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to support Senate Bill# 46 which is An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds.

I am here today as a proud grandmother of five grandchildren between the ages of 9 months and 9 years of age. I was raised here in CT but raised my, now adult children, in Vermont. Our water wasn’t fluoridated, and they have beautiful teeth. We didn’t have flame retardants on our clothes then. We didn’t use pesticides on our gardens and they are healthy and educated young adults as a result. Most people didn’t use chemicals on their lawns because they just mowed their fields. It was green and beautiful and it had clover and that was considered good because it was adding nitrogen to the soil that made your property a healthier place. It was a place to watch bees hover to gather their honey. Now, we see few honey bees because they are being killed off by systemic pesticides. And, simultaneously, our children are exposed to these same chemicals that are slowly poisoning them. It can take 20 years before you see the results of exposure to these chemicals. But as a result of changing our DNA, we are seeing more sick children with each new generation. The figures don’t lie.

Here in Connecticut children are playing on chemically driven fields because lawn chemical companies have spent millions of dollars convincing schools that these chemicals are necessary to have beautiful grass, just as the tobacco companies for generations convinced us that it was cool to smoke. They’re wrong!! They’re dead wrong! These fields aren’t healthy. They are being sustained by chemicals. They may kill off weeds but they also kill off beneficial microbes essential for healthy soil.

My grandchildren are all little athletes! But I don't want them on school playgrounds that are saturated with chemicals. The science is in folks! And, it isn't good news!! Most of these chemicals cause cancer. They are also endocrine disruptors. That means, our little boys are being feminized and our little girls are being masculinized. Please let's use the precautionary principle.

Our children are the most vulnerable to the affects of these chemicals because of their rapid metabolism and because they are so low to the ground. They absorb chemicals by breathing them in and absorbing them through their skin. Our pets are also very susceptible for the same reasons.

Most parents don't understand what is on these playgrounds. They take it for granted that **schools and their government are there to protect their children**. That's certainly a little naïve. Unfortunately many schools have untrained groundskeepers who never read or understand the warning instructions for applying these chemicals.

If the school groundskeepers can't manage to take care of the athletic fields without chemicals then they aren't very good groundskeepers. It isn't that hard to be successful at creating beautiful, organic athletic fields. There are many good examples of organic playing fields!!

It is very possible to have wonderful, thick green athletic fields without toxic lawn chemicals and that includes without Integrated Pest Management (IPM). That's just another marketing tool to sell more chemicals. It may take more effort in the beginning to create organic fields but will be less costly to our children's health and welfare.

There is no excuse for allowing profits of the chemical industry to trump the health of our children and grandchildren. It's outrageous that chemical companies are here, once again, to attempt to pour toxic chemicals on all the places our children and pets play. Innocent children at play should not result in cancer and countless

other diseases that are being attributed to these chemicals. Please use your hearts and your common sense! Protect our children and pets!!

We know our EPA doesn't test these chemicals. They allow manufacturers to supply information to them indicating their chemicals are safe. I believe you call that "the fox guarding the henhouse." Our children are suffering because the fox isn't to be trusted.

Thank you!

## Addendum:

Groundbreaking Study Links Monsanto's Glyphosate To Cancer

<http://www.collective-evolution.com/2013/06/14/groundbreaking-study-links-monsantos-glyphosate-to-cancer/>

Lawn care chemicals: how toxic are they?

The benefits of using lawn care chemicals are easy to see, but the effects they may have on your family's health and the environment are less obvious.

<http://eartheasy.com/blog/2009/01/lawn-care-chemicals-how-toxic-are-they/>

Pesticide free lawns

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/pesticidefreelawns/>

Healthy Home

Organic Garden

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Blog &gt; Healthy Home &gt; Lawn care chemicals: how toxic are they?

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## Lawn care chemicals: how toxic are they?

*The benefits of using lawn care chemicals are easy to see, but the effects they may have on your family's health and the environment are less obvious.*

By GREG SEAMAN | Posted JAN 28, 2009

172



A lush, thick lawn is an ideal natural playground, as well as a practical ground cover for yards. Growing the 'perfect' lawn is something of a suburban quest, a neighborly challenge for some. For the rest of us it's an obligation assigned the LPE (least possible effort) to maintain a semblance of green lawn. Either way, it's all too easy to reach for a packaged solution — lawn care chemicals which are quite effective at killing weeds and helping establish a beautiful lawn..

Some 100 million pounds of pesticides are used by homeowners in homes and gardens each year, and concern is growing about the potential hazards associated with their use. Studies show that these hazardous lawn chemicals are drifting into our homes where they contaminate indoor air and surfaces, exposing children at levels ten times higher than preapplication levels.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in a study of 9,282 people nationwide, found pesticides in 100% of the people who had both blood and urine tested. The average person carried 13 of 23 pesticides tested.

### What are lawn care chemicals?

They include more than just fertilizers. Chemicals that kill weeds, insects and a variety of diseases are sold separately and in combination with fertilizers such as 'weed and feed'. These formulations may include organophosphates, carbamates, phenoxy and benzoic acid herbicides like 2,4 D, MCPP, and MCPA, pyrethroids and organochlorines.

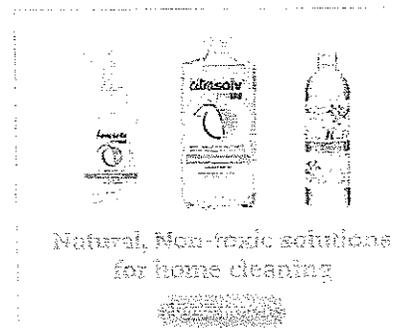
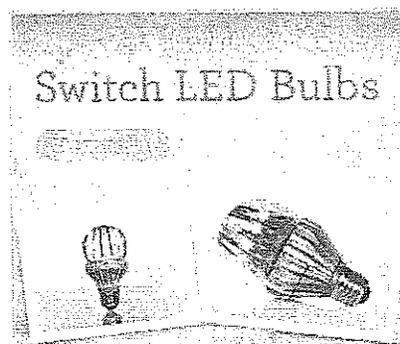
### Do lawn care chemicals pose a health threat to my family?

Yes. Pesticides used in controlling weeds, insects, etc., are toxic. These chemicals have been created to kill pests and most are broad-spectrum biocides. This means they are poisonous to a wide variety of living organisms, including garden plants, wildlife, pets, your neighbors, your family and you. Inert ingredients, which may comprise 50 to 99% of a pesticide formula may actually be more toxic than the active ingredients.

Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 are linked with cancer or carcinogenicity, 13 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 26 with liver or kidney damage, 15 with neurotoxicity, and 11 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system. Of those same pesticides, 17 are detected in groundwater, 23 have the ability to leach into drinking water sources, 24 are toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms vital to our ecosystem, 11 are toxic to bees, and 16 are toxic to birds.

### How are we exposed to lawn care chemicals?

Poisons are absorbed through the skin, by the mouth, or by breathing sprays, dusts, or vapors. You or your children can be poisoned if you apply or are present during application of the chemical. Also if you touch contaminated grass, shoes, clothing, lawn furniture, etc., or put contaminated objects (toys, golf tees, blades of grass etc.) or fingers in the mouth.



Children and pets are at higher risk for health effects from exposure to pesticides than adults because their internal organs are still developing and maturing. Children are often more exposed to pesticides than are adults because they play or crawl on grass or floors where pesticide powders and granules normally settle. A recent government report states, until new guidelines for conducting exposure studies are developed, the EPA will not know how much exposure is associated with lawn care pesticides and associated health risks, especially for children.

### Why doesn't my doctor diagnose pesticide poisoning?

Pesticide manufacturers are not required to release health information to the medical profession. Doctors are not knowledgeable about pesticide poisonings and often misdiagnose these symptoms as allergies, flu, or some other illness. Doctors often state that the symptoms are psychosomatic. They are also afraid of a large chemical company taking them to court over a pesticide poisoning diagnosis – taking a toll on their time and finances.

### Are lawn chemicals safe when dry?

No. Many chemicals remain active from a month to over a year. During this time, they can release toxic vapors. Breathing these vapors, even from neighbors lawns or while playing on or mowing contaminated grass, can cause illness.

### What are the symptoms of lawn care pesticide poisoning?

They are deceptively simple and similar to those of other illnesses. Pesticides attack the central nervous system and other vital body centers. Some symptoms include: sore nose, tongue, or throat, burning skin or ears, rash, excessive sweating or salivation, chest tightness, asthma-like attacks, coughing, muscle pain, seizures, headaches, eye pain, blurred or dim vision, numbness or tingling in hands or feet, nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea, tissue swelling, anxiety, suicidal depression, irritability, angry outbursts, disturbed sleep, learning disabilities, fatigue, dizziness, unexplained fever, irregular heartbeat, elevated blood pressure, stroke, death.

Even without apparent symptoms, exposure may still be harmful. Long term problems may include: lower male fertility, miscarriage, birth defects, chemical sensitivity, immune suppression, cataracts, liver and kidney dysfunction, heart disturbances, and cancer.

### Is the government allowing unsafe chemicals on the market?

Yes. The EPA makes no claims to protect us from harmful pesticides. In fact, it is a violation of federal law to label any pesticides as "safe", "harmless", or "non-toxic to humans or pets". The US Congress states, 90% of pesticides in current use lack health and safety tests required for registration, yet they continue to be sold and used. Of the most widely used products on lawns, most are lacking health and safety data required for registration.

### Can lawn care chemicals contaminate my drinking water?

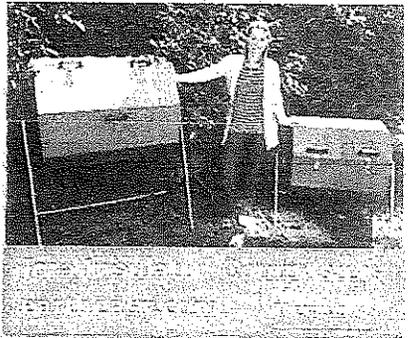
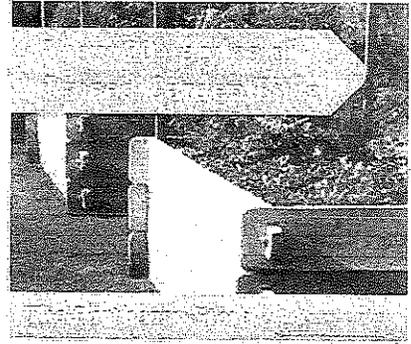
Yes. Pesticides and fertilizers can and do leach into private and public wells and water supplies. Unfortunately, there currently is no program to monitor our drinking water for this type of contamination. Many of the most widely use lawn care chemicals have been detected in ground water (e.g., 2,4-D, Sevin, Diazinon, and RoundUp).

### Are there alternatives to toxic lawn care chemicals?

Yes. Natural landscape maintenance programs can achieve a healthy, pest-free landscape using the latest scientific developments in organic agriculture and horticulture. For example, corn gluten is a natural pre-emergent weed killer and fertilizer now available to home owners. Lawns can be enriched naturally by thin spreading of compost in the spring and fall. Also, natural lawn care practices will lead to a healthy vigorous lawn which resists pests and disease.

#### References:

Organic Landscape  
National Coalition for Pesticide-free lawns  
Environment and Human Health



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# Groundbreaking Study Links Monsanto's Glyphosate To Cancer

June 14, 2013 by Arjun Walia.

Glyphosate is a major component of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide. It was created and manufactured on a mass scale by Monsanto and is one of the most widely used herbicides in the world. A number of scientific studies surrounding glyphosate have shed light on the danger it poses to the human body. A new groundbreaking study has now found that the most active ingredient in Monsanto's best selling herbicide "Roundup" is responsible for fuelling breast cancer by increasing the number of breast cancer cells through cell growth and cell division.

The study is published in the *US National Library of Medicine* (4) and will soon be published in the journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology*. Several recent studies showed glyphosate's potential to be an endocrine disruptor. Endocrine disruptors are chemicals that can interfere with the hormone system in mammals. These disruptors can cause developmental disorders, birth defects and cancer tumours.

*Glyphosate exerted proliferative effects only in human hormone-dependent breast cancer. We found that glyphosate exhibited a weaker estrogenic activity than estradiol. Furthermore, this study demonstrated the additive estrogenic effects of glyphosate and genistein which implied that the use of glyphosate-contaminated soybean products as dietary supplements may pose a risk of breast cancer because of their potential additive estrogenicity. (4)*

Researchers also determined that that Monsanto's roundup is considered an "xenoestrogen," which is a foreign estrogen that mimics real estrogen in our bodies. This can cause a number of problems that include an increased risk of various cancers, early onset of puberty, thyroid issues, infertility and more.

Scientists also recently discovered that the Bt toxins found in Monsanto's crops are damaging to red blood cells which are key to delivering oxygen

to the body. They have been linked to cancer and kidney function decline. You can read more about that [here](#).

It doesn't stop there, Monsanto's roundup was also linked to Autism, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease not to long ago.

When you ingest Glyphosate, you are in essence altering the chemistry of your body. It's completely unnatural and the body doesn't resonate with it. P450 (CYP) is the gene pathway disrupted when the body takes in Glyphosate(3). P450 creates enzymes that assist with the formation of molecules in cells, as well as breaking them down. CYP enzymes are abundant and have many important functions. They are responsible for detoxifying xenobiotics from the body, things like the various chemicals found in pesticides, drugs and carcinogens. Glyphosate inhibits the CYP enzymes. The CYP pathway is critical for normal, natural functioning of multiple biological systems within our bodies. Because humans that have been exposed to glyphosate have a drop in amino acid tryptophan levels, they do not have the necessary active signalling of the neurotransmitter serotonin, which is associated with weight gain, depression and Alzheimer's disease.

Obviously, the chemistry behind Glyphosate is known by Monsanto. The fact that it disrupts the CYP gene pathway, the enzymes that play a major role in body detoxification is something that can easily contribute to illness and disease. I wonder if this has a direct correlation to the pharmaceutical industry possibly? The same major financial institutions that own major biotech and food corporations also own most of the major pharmaceutical companies. Mainstream media in North America will always promote GMOs and Roundup as well as emphasize their safety. That couldn't be further from the truth, they damage your DNA and RNA genomes, not just for profit but for experimentation and control. Fidelity investments, State Street Corporation, JP Morgan Chase and The Vanguard Group seem to own all major food corporations and pharmaceutical companies (1)(2).

It's good to see more alternative media outlets sharing, and spreading information around the world together. The world is experiencing a mass awakening like never before, and it continues to move forward at an exponential rate. We are living in exciting times, aren't we? Monsanto's roundup alone is cause for so many concerns, and can create several health conditions within the human body. Why are we ingesting this stuff? Why do we allow this stuff?



## Welcome to the *National Coalition for Pesticide-Free Lawns*

- Join the National Coalition for Pesticide-Free Lawns by signing the Declaration and joining in grassroots actions to educate your community – including landscapers and policy makers - about the unacceptable hazards of lawn chemicals.
- Learn About the Alternatives - Beyond Pesticides has numerous fact sheets and resources you can use to find alternatives to chemical lawn care treatments that harm human health and the environment.
- Order Safe Lawn Doorhangers - 25,000 distributed across the country!
- Order a Pesticide-Free Zone Sign - the Coalition's uniting symbol.
- Find Your Local Group - Find Coalition Members in Your State and region.
- Are You A Service Provider? We see pesticide-free lawns as a business opportunity, not a threat. Learn how we promote business opportunity.

The world is rapidly changing and with it are perspectives on the use of toxic lawn chemicals and the hazards they pose to our children, families, neighbors, wildlife, and drinking water sources.

Public concern over the potential hazards associated with chemical lawn care products and services has been on a steady rise; and with good reason. Some 100 million pounds of pesticides are used by homeowners in homes and gardens each year, and even more when commercial companies are added in. Suburban lawns and gardens are known to receive far heavier pesticide applications per acre than most other land areas in the U.S., including agricultural areas.

Studies show that these hazardous lawn chemicals are making their way into our homes, either carried in the wind through windows or air conditioners by drift or tracked into homes from shoes, where they contaminate indoor air and surfaces. Pesticides in our home can concentrate to the point where they expose children to levels ten times higher than preapplication levels.

Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 are linked with cancer or carcinogenicity, 13 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 26 with liver or kidney damage, 15 with neurotoxicity, and 11 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system.

Of those same 30 lawn pesticides, 17 are detected in groundwater, 23 have the ability to leach into drinking water sources, 24 are toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms vital to our ecosystem, 11 are toxic to bees, and 16 are toxic to birds. With numbers like this, the only logical question becomes: is this really necessary and what can we do to stop or prevent this kind of contamination?

Members of the *National Coalition for Pesticide-Free Lawns* are working to halt senseless exposure to lawn pesticides and to educate the public, landscapers, and policy makers on the use of non-toxic and least-toxic lawn care practices and products. Change begins at the local level. The public plays an extremely important role in lawn pesticide reform – not only in the way it perceives the use of toxic pesticides in homes and communities but also in the way it demands safe alternatives from retailers, organic services from lawn care providers, and better protection from pesticide exposure from local policy makers.

**Coalition Members:** Beyond Pesticides, Defenders of Wildlife, Environment & Human Health, Inc., Facts about Alternatives to Chemical Trespassing, Inc. (FACT), Grassroots Environmental Education, Greater Madison Healthy Lawn Team, Marin Beyond Pesticides Coalition, New Jersey Environmental Federation, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut, Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey, Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, Pesticide Action Network North America, Safer Pest Control Project, Salem Pesticide Association, Texans for Alternatives to Pesticides, Toxics Action Center, Toxic Free NC, Washington Toxics Coalition, The Watershed Partnership



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- See more at: <http://www.collective-evolution.com/2013/06/14/groundbreaking-study-links-monsantos-glyphosate-to-cancer/#sthash.OyvGg4b0.dpuf>

# Health Effects of 30 Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides

		Health Effects						
		Cancer	Endocrine Disruption	Reproductive Effects	Neurotoxicity	Kidney/Liver Damage	Sensitizer/Irritant	Birth Defects
<b>Herbicides</b>								
Pesticides	2,4-D*	X <sup>4</sup>	X <sup>10</sup>	X <sup>7</sup>	X <sup>8</sup>	X <sup>8</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>12</sup>
	Benfluralin					X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	
	Bensulide				X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	
	Clopyralid			X <sup>7</sup>			X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>7</sup>
	Dachthal	Possible <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>			X <sup>7</sup>	X <sup>11</sup>	
	Dicamba*			X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>
	Diquat Dibromide			X <sup>12</sup>		X <sup>11</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	
	Fluazifop-p-butyl			X <sup>1</sup>		X <sup>1</sup>		X <sup>1</sup>
	Glyphosate*	X <sup>7</sup>	X <sup>8</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>		X <sup>8</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	
	Isoxaben	X <sup>3</sup>				X <sup>2</sup>		
	MCPA		X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>11</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	
	MCPP*	Possible <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>9</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>
	Pelargonic Acid*						X <sup>1</sup>	
	Pendimethalin*	Possible <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>			X <sup>2</sup>	
	Pronamide	Probable <sup>4</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>			X <sup>9</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	
Triclopyr			X <sup>7</sup>		X <sup>9</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>7</sup>	
Trifluralin*	Possible <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>		X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Insecticides</b>								
Acephate	Possible <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>11</sup>	X <sup>9</sup>		X <sup>2</sup>		
Bifenthrin <sup>9</sup>	Possible <sup>3</sup>	Suspected <sup>6,10</sup>		X <sup>8</sup>		X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>9</sup>	
Carbaryl*	X <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>10</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>11</sup>	X <sup>11</sup>	X <sup>7</sup>	
Dichlorvos	X <sup>4</sup>	Suspected <sup>10</sup>		X <sup>11</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>11</sup>		
Fipronil	Possible <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>9</sup>	X <sup>8</sup>	X <sup>8</sup>		
Imidacloprid			X <sup>7</sup>		X <sup>2</sup>		X <sup>7</sup>	
Malathion*	Possible <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>10</sup>	X <sup>11</sup>	X <sup>9</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	
Permethrin <sup>9</sup>	X <sup>3</sup>	Suspected <sup>6,10</sup>	X <sup>1,7</sup>	X <sup>9,7</sup>	X <sup>9</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>		
Trichlorfon	X <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>11</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>		X <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Fungicides</b>								
Azoxystrobin					X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>		
Myclobutanil		Probable <sup>5</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>		X <sup>2</sup>			
Sulfur						X <sup>1</sup>		
Ziram	Suggestive <sup>3</sup>	Suspected <sup>6</sup>		X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>		
Totals:	17	18	19	14	24	25	11	

## Notes

\* These pesticides are among the top 10 most heavily used pesticides in the home and garden sector from 2006-2007, according to the latest sales and usage data available from EPA (2011).

<sup>§</sup> EPA lists all synthetic pyrethroids under the same category. While all synthetic pyrethroids have similar toxicological profiles, some may be more or less toxic in certain categories than others. See Beyond Pesticides' synthetic pyrethroid fact sheet at [bit.ly/TLBuP8](http://bit.ly/TLBuP8) for additional information.

## Sources

List of 30 commonly used pesticides are compiled by Beyond Pesticides from information provided by the General Accounting Office 1990 Report, "Lawn Care Pesticides: Risks Remain Uncertain While Prohibited Safety Claims Continue," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *National Pesticide Survey* (1990), *Farm Chemicals Handbook* (1989), *The National Home and Garden Pesticide Use Survey* by Research Triangle Institute, NC (1992), multiple state reports, current EPA Environmental Impact Statements, and Risk Assessments, EPA national sales and usage data, and Beyond Pesticides' information requests.

For more information on hazards associated with pesticides, please see Beyond Pesticides' *Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management* at [www.beyondpesticides.org/gateway](http://www.beyondpesticides.org/gateway). For questions and other inquiries, please contact our office at 202-543-5450, email [info@beyondpesticides.org](mailto:info@beyondpesticides.org) or visit us on the web at [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org).

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