HAZARDS OF CHEMICAL LAWN CARE

Studies show that hazardous lawn chemicals are drifting into our homes where they contaminate indoor air and surfaces, exposing children at levels ten times higher than pre-application levels. Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 16 are linked with cancer or carcinogenicity, 12 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 25 with liver or kidney damage, 14 with neurotoxicity, and 17 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system.

Of those same 30 lawn pesticides, 19 are detected in groundwater, 20 have the ability to leach into drinking water sources, 30 are toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms vital to our ecosystem, 29 are toxic to bees, 14 are toxic to mammals, and 22 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.

Read more about the hazards of lawn care, their impacts on children, and how to avoid being deceived by organic claims at https://www.beyondpesticides.org/programs/lawns-and-landscapes/overview/hazards-and-alternatives

CHILDREN & PESTICIDES

Children take in more pesticides relative to body weight than adults, and have developing immune, nervous, and digestive systems that make them more vulnerable to environmental toxins.

The President’s Cancer Panel on Environmental Cancer Risk notes that leukemia rates are consistently elevated among children whose parents used pesticides in their home and garden. The National Academy of Sciences estimates 50% of lifetime pesticide exposure occurs during the first five years of life.

A study in Cancer Causes and Control suggests that preconception pesticide exposure and possible exposure during pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of childhood brain tumors.

Studies show low levels of exposure to lawn pesticide products are linked to increased rates of miscarriage, and suppression of the nervous, endocrine, and immune systems.

Research finds that infants and toddlers exposed to herbicides (weed-killers) within their first year of life are 4.5 times more likely to develop asthma by the age of five, and almost 2.5 times more likely when exposed to insecticides.
Researchers at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center found an association between increasing exposures to commonly used synthetic pyrethroid insecticides and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), with a higher association in boys than girls.

Children ages 6–11 have higher levels of lawn chemicals in their blood than all other age categories. Biomonitoring studies find that pesticides pass from mother to child through umbilical cord blood and breast milk.


**Information provided here is from**

https://beyondpesticides.org/

The term “pesticide” includes herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides, and the other ingredients comprising formulated products.

**IMPACT OF LAWN PESTICIDES**

88 million households in the U.S use pesticides around their home.

Herbicides account for the highest usage of pesticides in the home and garden sector.

Suburban lawns and gardens receive more pesticide applications per acre (3.2-9.8 lbs.) than agriculture (2.7 lbs. per acre on average).

Of the 30 commonly used lawn pesticides: 22 are toxic to birds, 14 are toxic to mammals, 30 are toxic to fish and aquatic organisms, and 29 are deadly to bees.

Pesticides can be toxic to wildlife and cause food source contamination, behavioral abnormalities that interfere with survival, and death.

Of the 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 are detected in groundwater, and 20 have the potential to leach.

Runoff from synthetic chemical fertilizers pollutes streams and lakes and causes algae blooms, depleted oxygen and damage to aquatic life.