

## Glyphosate Fact Sheet

- ❖ *Glyphosate has been independently studied and declared safe by countries including Japan, the United States, Canada, Germany, Argentina, Australia, and the European Union.*
- ❖ *Glyphosate has been studied for over 40 years and poses no health risk to workers or the public when used according to label instructions.*
- ❖ *Glyphosate is a safe and cost effective tool that reduces costs to users because it works so well.*

### What is Glyphosate?

Glyphosate is an herbicide used to kill weeds. It was first developed in the 1970's and is one of the most widely used herbicides in the world because it is both safe and effective. Glyphosate is used to control a wide variety of weeds and invasive plants in agriculture and gardening, on land and in water environments. There are over 100 glyphosate products sold by over 40 different companies around the world in over 160 countries.

### Is Glyphosate Safe?

Yes. Before a product can be registered for sale and use in the United States, it must be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the head scientific body in the United States that sets strict scientific policies and guidelines for pesticide products to ensure they can be used safely and effectively.



Over 300 studies and thousands of pages of information on glyphosate were reviewed by scientists at the U.S.EPA before it was approved for use. These include short term and long term studies to determine if it caused cancer. All of these studies support the conclusion that glyphosate is safe when used as labeled and **poses no health risk to workers or the public.** This includes farm workers spraying glyphosate.



Like all pesticides, the U.S. EPA continues to evaluate the safety of glyphosate. Hundreds of additional trustworthy studies have been performed on glyphosate over the last forty years to determine if it causes cancer, other diseases, or long-term health problems. It does not.

## But What About Recent Studies that Claim Glyphosate is Dangerous?

Just because something is on the Internet does not make it true. There are many ways to get something published without having to undergo scrutiny or review by people knowledgeable in the subject matter. Unfortunately, today this is quite common in science. The checks and balances that were once in place, are commonly not there, especially with the advent of the Internet.

One recent glyphosate “study” was published by two authors in a non-credible physics journal, which concluded that glyphosate causes a wide range of health diseases including Parkinson’s, infertility, and cancer. The “study” was in fact not a study because no actual studies were performed. The authors, who do not appear to have any formal training in biology or medicine, drew conclusions about the health and safety of glyphosate by putting together junk science studies performed by other people who aren’t credible. Such “studies” are very common and often cited by groups that oppose pesticides to generate fear among the public.



## But Didn’t the World Health Organization (WHO) Recently Say that Glyphosate Probably Causes Cancer?

The WHO oversees many programs and committees. One of their committees known as the International Agency for Research on Cancer recently classified glyphosate as probably causing cancer. This classification does not mean that glyphosate actually causes cancer in humans. The committee used such a narrow scope of information that other reputable scientific bodies do not regard the claim as scientifically reliable or sound. Much has been made that this is a WHO committee; yet another WHO committee, the WHO Food & Agriculture Organization’s Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues have concluded in three different **comprehensive** reviews that glyphosate is safe.

## How do I Know Which Studies to Believe?

Concerned members of the public should rely on studies that have been peer reviewed by reputable scientific bodies who publish their reviews, not by unqualified individuals or groups utilizing limited data that is not peer reviewed. You should ask yourself what is more credible; thousands of independent studies from around the world, or 2 or 3 reports that are not supported by any other credible scientific bodies? Glyphosate has been studied by independent scientific bodies in Japan, the US, the EU, Germany, Canada, Australia, Argentina, and many other countries around the world. All these studies have utilized comprehensive data sets, and have found glyphosate safe.

