

Glyphosate/Roundup In the News, Safety Information

March 27, 2015

Glyphosate – the active ingredient in Monsanto’s Roundup® brand herbicides underwent a first-time review by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). During a one-week meeting, IARC evaluated the potential carcinogenic risks to humans from several pesticides. Among its classifications, it concluded that glyphosate belongs in a 2A category as a probable carcinogen. We disagree.

IARC is one of four programs within the World Health Organization (WHO) that has reviewed the safety of glyphosate and their classification is inconsistent with the assessments of the other programs. Two of the WHO programs – the Core Assessment Group and the International Programme on Chemical Safety – both concluded glyphosate is not carcinogenic. The WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality concluded glyphosate does not represent a hazard to human health.

All labeled uses of glyphosate are safe for human health and supported by one of the most extensive worldwide human health databases ever compiled on a pesticide. This database represents some 800 scientific studies on human health, safety and the environment.

Following IARC’s announcement on March 20, there was wide disagreement with this classification for several reasons: there is no new research or data that was used; the most relevant, scientific data was excluded from review; the conclusion is not supported by scientific data; and there is no link between glyphosate and an increase in cancer when the full data set is included in a rigorous review.

Hear exactly [what experts said](#) in response.

IARC reached a conclusion that is a dramatic departure from the conclusion reached by all regulatory agencies around the globe. As recently as January, the German government completed a rigorous, four-year evaluation of glyphosate for the European Union. They reviewed all the data IARC considered, plus significantly more, and concluded “glyphosate was unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk in humans.”

We encourage you to learn more about the IARC rating on this dedicated [webpage](#), read the article “[What the IARC rating for glyphosate means](#)” and utilize talking points found on the next page to help aide in both person and business conversations with those who should be in the know, including dealers, parks managers, golf course superintendants, academics, county roadside supervisors and IPM coordinators.

Furthermore, we would expect the U.S. EPA will open a public comment period later this year on the regulation of glyphosate. This is not related to the IARC decision, but is part of a [routine regulatory review](#). You might consider whether defending glyphosate’s current approved uses is a business imperative – and if so, be prepared to share your comments on the benefits of glyphosate and the potential impact to your business without it. We will notify you when the 60-day public comment period begins.

Key points to make

- All labeled uses of glyphosate are safe for human health and supported by one of the most extensive worldwide human health databases ever compiled on a pesticide.
- It is critical that the IARC panel's findings on glyphosate, a major active ingredient in Roundup® brand herbicides, be interpreted with great care. The IARC precautionary classification does not establish a link between glyphosate and an increase in cancer.

Decades of data from more than 800 scientific studies demonstrate that exposure to glyphosate does not cause cancer.

- IARC conducts a limited data review, which is different than the comprehensive database review that public health authorities, such as the U.S. EPA, undertake.
- It's important to put this IARC classification into perspective. Many common exposures are classified in Category 2, including coffee, aloe vera extract, cell phones, pickled vegetables as well as professions such as barbers and fry cooks.
- For these reasons, Roundup remains a trusted solution for industrial, turf, ornamental, lawn and garden uses. Glyphosate has a long history of safe use as a valuable agricultural tool in more than 160 countries worldwide.

What have regulatory authorities concluded about the safety of glyphosate?

Conclusions on a matter as important as human safety must be non-biased, thorough and based on science that adheres to internationally recognized standards.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: "EPA has concluded that glyphosate does not pose a cancer risk to humans." (2013)

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment: "In epidemiological studies in humans, there was no evidence of carcinogenicity and there were no effects on fertility, reproduction and development of neurotoxicity that might be attributed to glyphosate." Glyphosate Renewal Assessment Report, Germany as Rapporteur Member State for the European Renewal of Approval for Glyphosate (2015)

Australian Government, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority: "The APVMA currently has no data before it suggesting that glyphosate products registered in Australia and used according to label instructions present any unacceptable risks to human health, the environment and trade. ... The weight and strength of evidence shows that glyphosate is not genotoxic, carcinogenic or neurotoxic." (2013)