









Take Action to Ban Glyphosate (Roundup)  
IRT Toolkit

*“Getting Started”*

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## Introduction.

Although most glyphosate use is agricultural, use of the herbicide in lawn care and landscaping places an additional toxic burden on the environment and increases health risks especially for children and pets.

The staggering amount of glyphosate that has been released into the environment worldwide since the introduction of Roundup Ready crops is impossible to document. Current estimates for the United States alone approach 300 million pounds per year.

The prevalence and persistence of glyphosate and Roundup in parks and playgrounds, as well as in food, makes it imperative that immediate action be taken to raise public awareness and create a new leadership for healthier, safer communities.

Thus, this toolkit is focused on glyphosate. We recognize, however, that long term success needs a comprehensive, holistic approach, and therefore we have included many resources that support broad-based pesticide reduction plans.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the [Midwest Pesticide Action Center \(MPAC\)](#) of Chicago for their technical support and permission to use their excellent resources.

## Getting Started

Raising public awareness and creating new leadership to foster safe and healthy communities is really a task that properly belongs to each community.

To make it easier especially for new activists, we identified six crucial steps.

### Step One: Educating yourself.

Educating yourself is the first step to educating others. Take time to review the list of resources. There is a lot of information that you will need at your fingertips as you begin to reach out to your community. All of the following items are included in the Master Resource List. [\[Download pdf\]](#)

- Learn about the health risks and available supporting research. Current research has linked glyphosate to antibiotic resistance, birth defects, cancer, damage to the gut biome, endocrine disruption, infertility, kidney disease, and neurodegenerative disease (e.g. Alzheimer's, Parkinson's). The [Health Risks of Glyphosate](#) table contains citations and links sorted by health condition.
- Communities around the world are taking action. Argentina, Bermuda, Brazil, China, Colombia, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and the USA. [Current news stories with links are sorted by country.](#)
- Progressive communities like Richmond, California and Takoma Park, Maryland provide excellent examples to use as templates. See the [ordinance passed by the City of Richmond, CA](#), and a [sample resolution](#) you can adapt to share with your city council.

- Also included is [editable Petition to Prohibit Use of Glyphosate in Public Areas](#), complete with background, and a [one page overview](#) of the case for banning glyphosate and Roundup.

[Download Master Resource List.](#)

### **Step Two: Check existing regulations.**

Check the regulations in your state. Read the factsheet from Beyond Pesticides to learn more about [State Preemption Law](#) as it applies to pesticide regulations in your state. This makes a big difference in how broadly you can implement a ban.

Also be sure to find out what policies your municipality may already have in place. Visit with the person in charge of maintaining parks and playgrounds to assess the level of awareness and get an idea of how responsiveness they might be to change.

### **Step Three: Write down your goals.**

Write down your definition of success. See page 11 of the [Activist's Toolkit](#) from Midwest Pesticide Action Center (MPAC) for ideas.

For example:

- The city passes an ordinance banning the use of conventional pesticides on all publically managed spaces.
- The school agrees to use organic, natural fertilizers and no pesticides to manage school grounds.
- The neighborhood agrees to voluntary non-use of glyphosate-based herbicides.

In addition to the [Activist's Toolkit](#), MPAC publishes the [Municipal Pesticide Reduction Toolkit](#). Both of MPAC's publications include a number of examples in policies, ordinances and resolutions.

The [Tool Kit to Pass a Local Ordinance](#), is an excellent resource for general information and ideas for organizing community action. It is full of good tips for individuals without prior organizing experience; even those who do will find it useful.

#### **Step Four: Start building your coalition.**

Inviting people to join your campaign.

Start with an organizing committee of a few committed individuals and make a list of people you will need to get on your side, such as a local MD, outspoken Mom, city council member, school board member, Parks and Rec Supervisor. . . This is a good time to bring someone on board who has expertise with managing contacts, sending group emails, and using social media.

#### **Step Five: Choose your materials.**

Assembling a packet of materials is a matter of quality not quantity. Your packet will reflect your purpose. Some of the items can be adapted from the list of resources: others you will want to create to meet a specific need. Things that are nice to have—but not all necessary—include fact sheets, brochures, flyers, memes for social media, banners for websites, PowerPoint slides and other graphics.

## Step Six: Outline a communication strategy.

Plan how you will deliver your message.

- Raising the issue at a public meeting
- Writing letters to decision makers
- Phone calls
- Social media
- Creating an online petition (i.e. [Change.org](http://Change.org))
- Getting media attention

## What you can expect from us.

The IRT Campaign to Ban Glyphosate is part of our overall effort to raise public awareness of the health risks of genetically modified foods and agritoxins.

As a nonprofit educational institution, we can:

1. Support volunteers with information and networking to take action in their communities.
2. Share information and feedback from local action groups with other organizations and policy leaders.
3. Investigate and report the risks and impact of GMOs and agritoxins on health, environment, the economy, and agriculture.

Send your questions and comments to [volunteers@responsibletechnology.org](mailto:volunteers@responsibletechnology.org).

We love to hear from you.

## About IRT

The [Institute for Responsible Technology](#) (IRT) is a non-profit organization that researches and reports news and information about the health risks of genetically engineered food and agritoxins. GMOs (genetically modified organisms) are present in processed foods and many food products.

Major commodity crops grown from GMO seed include: corn (90%), soybeans (93%), canola (93%), cotton (90%), and sugar beets (98%).\* GMO sweet corn, papaya, zucchini, and yellow summer squash are also for sale in grocery stores, but in lesser amounts. Genetically modified alfalfa is grown for use as hay and forage for animals. \*percentages are based on U.S. acreage as of 2013 (USDA)