Take Action to Ban Glyphosate (Roundup)

IRT Toolkit
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We wish to acknowledge and thank the *Midwest Pesticide Action Center (MPAC)* of Chicago and *Beyond Pesticides* for their technical support and permission to use their excellent resources.
Introduction.

Most glyphosate use is agricultural. However, 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. Click on the map to watch an animation of the deepening spread of glyphosate over the U.S. from 1992 to 2012.

![Estimated Agricultural Use for Glyphosate, 1992](image)

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 approach, and therefore we have included many resources that support broad-based pesticide reduction plans usually referred to as integrated pest management (IPM) plans.
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 the following items are included in the Master Resource List (Appendix I).

- 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 (Appendix II) contains citations and links sorted by health condition.

- Progressive communities across the U.S. are taking action. See this map provided by Beyond Pesticides. Top tier models include:
  - South Portland, ME (in process)
  - Montgomery County, MD (process near complete)
  - Cuyahoga County, OH (implemented)
  - Hyattsville, MD (in process)
  - Camden, ME (implemented)
  - Douglas County, WI (implemented)
• Also included is editable petition to Prohibit Use of Glyphosate in Public Areas (download Word doc), and a one page overview of the case for banning glyphosate and Roundup (Appendix III).

### Step Two: Check existing regulations.

Check the regulations in your state. Read the fact sheet 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 publicly 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 recreation 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)
- 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 chemical pesticides.

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 chemical pesticides on health, environment, the economy, and agriculture.

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)

Send your questions and comments to coordinator@responsibletechnology.org.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title with Link</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MPAC Activist’s Toolkit</strong></td>
<td>From Midwest Pesticide Action Center, a comprehensive guide to promoting sustainable lawn and landscape care. 36 pp. complete with links to additional resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>City of Richmond, CA glyphosate ban</strong></td>
<td>Resolution No. 19-15(a). A resolution of the city council of the city of Richmond implementing a pilot program to prohibit the use of pesticides in weed abatement activities. FEB 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Glyphosate / Roundup: NOT SAFE</strong></td>
<td>One page overview.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Glyphosate Monograph</strong></td>
<td>Detailed background on glyphosate from Pesticide Action Network Asia &amp; The Pacific. 50 pp. NOV 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GMOs, Glyphosate and US Health Trends</strong></td>
<td>Published in Journal of Organic Systems, 9(2), 2014, authors Swanson, Leu, Abrahamson and Wallet document the steep rise of chronic diseases in the context of changes to the American diet from GMOs and glyphosate.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health Risks of Glyphosate</strong></td>
<td>List of health risks with links to supporting research. All pdfs are ready for download. Prepared by IRT. JUN 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Montgomery County, MD, Bill 52-14 to prohibit non-essential pesticides</strong></td>
<td>Copy of Memorandum to County Council introducing proposed legislation for a county-wide ban on certain pesticides</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Municipal Pesticide Reduction Toolkit</strong></td>
<td>From Midwest Pesticide Action Center, 121 pp. of useful information and examples for sustainable pest control</td>
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<td>Resource</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petition to Prohibit Use of Glyphosate in Public Areas</td>
<td>Editable model document prepared by IRT. JUN 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sample Event Flyer</td>
<td>Glyphosate Action Session flyer. PDF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Resolution to share with your city council</td>
<td>Created by Dr. Jeff Ritterman. FEB 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Preemption Law regarding regulation of pesticides</td>
<td>A Beyond Pesticides Factsheet detailing the background and implications of state regulations that govern how local law may or may not be applied. Fall 2013.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tool Kit to Pass a Local Ordinance</td>
<td>A general “how to” guide prepared by the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center. 6 pp.</td>
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Glyphosate / Roundup: NOT SAFE

The existing approval of glyphosate and Roundup is out of date. New research and the conclusions of an international team of reviewers have established ample reason to immediately discontinue use of Roundup and other herbicide formulations that contain glyphosate.

- Most recently the World Health Organization’s cancer research agency announced that glyphosate is “probably carcinogenic” to humans. The UN agency based its decision on human, animal, and cell studies.

- Other independent research has linked glyphosate to a long list of serious health conditions and chronic diseases, including breast cancer, birth defects, kidney disease, and endocrine disruption.

- It was recently determined that glyphosate may in fact bio-accumulate, resulting in a concentration in our bodies that is greater than what may be excreted. This was shown in a sample testing of mothers’ breast milk and urine.

- Further, a 2014 study showed that the so-called “inert” ingredients or adjuvants used in the formulation of Roundup made it more toxic than glyphosate alone.

Small children with their higher respiratory rates, tendency to sit on the ground, and place their hands in their mouths, are especially vulnerable to exposure. Sharp increases in child disease including a 20% rise in childhood leukemia and brain tumors since 1975 as well as higher rates of allergies, asthma, autism, and birth defects have all been linked to environmental factors such as pesticides (including herbicides). Pets too, are at higher risk of being sickened.

While manufacturers continue to insist that glyphosate is safe to use as directed, the uncomfortable fact is that very little is known about the effects of long-term, low level exposure. What is known, is that an extraordinary amount of glyphosate is being released into the environment: an estimated 300 million pounds per year in the U.S.

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vi [http://www.momsacrossamerica.com/glyphosate_testing_results](http://www.momsacrossamerica.com/glyphosate_testing_results)
