

Gardening Tips

The Hazardous Waste Of Synthetic Fertilizers

By John Ferguson

In issue one Mike Serant talked about the dangers of the weed and feed fertilizers and how bad they were for the yard and the environment. With the recent explosion of the fertilizer plant in West, Texas it is time to mention another problem with synthetic fertilizers.

Another big problem for synthetic fertilizers is the hazardous waste that they may contain. When you buy a bag of 10%-10%-10% synthetic fertilizer did you ever think about what is in the other 70%?

A few years ago a lady mayor of Quincy, Washington noticed children getting sick, livestock dying and crops failing around her town. Somehow she put it together that they all had one thing in common, exposure to a synthetic fertilizer made by Centrix corporation whom was owned by Land-O-Lakes corporation at that time. She contacted the investigative reporter for the Seattle Times to find out why there was problems. They found out that the company was using hazardous waste (heavy metals like arsenic, mercury, cadmium, etc. as a filler (the other 70%)!

As a result of their findings the State of Washington and Canada made it illegal to put hazardous materials into fertilizer. However, during the Bush administration the EPA made it legal to put toxic material into synthetic fertilizer and they do not have to tell you about it.

The State of Washington tested many brands of synthetic fertilizer and found many of them contained hazardous waste. This included name brands that are



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sold in Houston. The full list is on the State of Washington's environmental website.

Vegetables grown with these toxic materials will absorb them and they will be in the food you eat. The heavy metals are well known to cause health and behavioral problems particularly in children.

The full story about what happened and the attempted government cover up is told in the book below.

Fateful Harvest by Duff Wilson, Harper Collins Publisher, ISBN 0-06-019369-7, A history of how hazardous waste is disposed of in synthetic fertilizers and ends up contaminating the food supply. Wilson was an investigative reporter for the Seattle Times Newspaper and published a series of articles in the Seattle Times during the July-August 1997-1999 time frames.

To protect your family avoid synthetic fertilizers.