

JOHN'S CORNER

WEEDS and HERBICIDES: ROUND-UP (UPDATE 1)

by John Ferguson

Since the announcement a few months ago that Round-Up (Glyphosate) is a carcinogen by the World Health Organization there has been a steady stream of reports and research articles being released. It is almost like many researchers were afraid to say anything or publish their results before.

Adding to the growing list of warnings is California's Environmental Agency which has listed glyphosate as carcinogenic and added to its list of chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Pollution from Round-Up is so severe that a study from Mississippi's delta region found glyphosate in 75% of all air and water samples over a 12 year period.

Glyphosate contamination is systemic in that it is in every cell of the plant from the roots to the growing tip. Unlike some pesticides, one cannot wash off glyphosate before cooking or eating hence this toxic chemical ends up in our bodies. Crops that have been genetically engineered (GMO) to withstand much higher concentrations of glyphosate have much higher levels of this toxic chemical in their cells. As we discussed previously, the glyphosate ties up nutrients, hence it alters the nutritional content of the crop, disrupts the biosynthesis of aromatic amino acids (these are the ones the body cannot make and must come from our food), the tie-up of sulfur impairs the sulfate transport and sulfur metabolism required for so many of our metabolic processes that are required for us to be healthy.

Another side effect of eating foods that have been treated with Round-Up is that there is a large disruption of the microbial function throughout our bodies, reducing the beneficial microbes in particular resulting in an increase of pathogens (over growth). This also leads to digestive disorders like heartburn, leaky gut and gluten intolerance. Glyphosate also shuts down many enzymes that



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detoxify the body, hence enhancing the damaging effects of food borne chemical residues and environmental toxins. As the microbes break the glyphosate down in our stomach and guts ammonia is created which leads to inflammation in our brains that is associated with autism and Alzheimer's disease.

Note: Only 1 ppm of glyphosate kills good bacteria and destroys the Microbiome we need for good health. There is a YouTube video on this subject titled "Engineered Food and Your Health: The Nutritional Status of GMO's".

Another research article in the Journal of Agricultural Sciences found that in genetically engineered soy beans (over 94% of all soy sold in the USA), the genetic modification disrupts the plants natural ability to control stress and allows the production of formaldehyde (a know carcinogen) in the bean. Additionally they found a large reduction in the anti-oxidant glutathione required for cellular detoxification. Note: GMO soy is now found in most baby food products unless they are certified organic.

One study on goats that were fed GMO soy, the researchers found that the DNA in the goats was altered and the milk produced was of lower quality which affected the offspring. One of the findings was that the colostrum that transfers immunity to the baby contained DNA fragments that are not supposed to be there (not normally found in goat milk). The immunoglobulin concentration was lowered and the colostrum had significantly reduced levels of proteins and fat. The baby goats had altered physical traits including height differences in their chest and withers (a polite way of saying they had birth defects).

Another source of GMO contamination in our food supply is from sugar. At least 95% of all sugar beets grown in the USA are now genetically modified and 50% of our "sugar" or "sucrose" is from beet sugar. The only way to protect your family is to use certified organic sugar or labeled 100% cane sugar. Pet health problems have exploded in recent years from tumors to cancer. The newsletter "Take Part" recently had a headline "Is Your Pet Eating GMO's". Unless your pet food is labeled GMO free or organic, there is a very high chance that your pet food is contaminated with GMO products.

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Several readers have sent in links to articles about GMO's. Recent articles in the New England Journal of Medicine (August 20, 2015) and the Journal of the American Medical Society have had articles questioning the safety of GMO foods and the health problems they are causing.

A new report I was reading this morning has found another toxicological problem that had never been investigated before. Round-Up and its active chemical glyphosate actually makes other toxins and heavy metals more damaging to the body than they would normally be! The result was impaired kidney function and kidney disease. The original report was published in the Journal BMC Nephrology and has been confirmed by researchers at multiple universities including MIT.

Due to the immense amount of research data being released on the dangers and health problems caused by GMO crops many countries are now banning the planting of these crops. A few include Russia, France, Hungary, Scotland, Austria, Latvia, Switzerland, Greece, Bulgaria, Ireland, New Zealand, and many more (26 total by one account). Also several countries have partial bans. For example Australia has several of it states that have full bans on GMO's. Several counties in the state of California have GMO bans. Additionally over 64 countries now require labeling of products containing GMO ingredients.

"A recent investigative study has found that one of the leading proponents of GMO food safety (University of Florida's now disgraced agricultural scientist Dr. Kevin Folta) was actually in financial collusion with Monsanto." (www.naturalnews.com)

Another headline, "Monsanto's Round-Up Triggers Over 40 Plant Diseases and Endangers Human and Animal Health". You can read more on the glyphosate issues at www.naturalnews.com/031138_Monsanto_Roundup.html.

Another interesting article from Natural News (Friday August 28, 2015) is "Farmers are drenching crops with glyphosate for faster harvesting". Round-Up is not being used for weed control but to dry out plants quicker to allow faster harvesting. This creates even higher levels of glyphosate residues on our food.

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A recent (and alarming) list of 15 diseases linked to Monsanto's Roundup was compiled by the health organization EcoWatch ([You can find the list here.](#)).

If you want to learn more, below are a few websites that have additional information on the dangers of Round-Up and GMO's:

<http://www.GMO.news>

<http://www.GMOevidence.com>

<http://www.GMwatch.org>

<http://www.naturalnews.com>

www.monsanto.news

As one of the newsletters pointed out it is amazing, with more and more Americans learning about the dangers of Round-Up and eating GMO foods, and with the polls showing over 94% of Americans want labeling, how the news giants like NBC, FOX, ABC, CBS, CNN, etc. have ignored this issue in their reporting. In other words they dance to the tune of their corporate sponsors and do not care about us the viewers.

As I finish writing this article I just read that the International Agency for Research on Cancer just classified the herbicide known as "2,4-D" as a probable carcinogen. More on this dangerous and toxic herbicide in future articles.