



[Home](#) / [Opinion](#) / [Letters](#) / [Roundup and salt equally toxic to humans](#)

## Roundup and salt equally toxic to humans

By: Kamloops This Week in Letters, Opinion June 5, 2015 17 Comments 541 Views

---

### **Editor:**

I believe pesticides and herbicides should be allowed to be used in the Kamloops and across B.C.

I have been a forestry contractor for more than 30 years and have applied both pesticides, and herbicides for 10 or more years during that time.

One frustrating thing in this whole debate is that most people don't know the difference between a pesticide and a herbicide.

Simply put, pesticides are used to control pests like mosquitoes, bees and mountain pine beetle. Herbicides are used to control vegetation weeds.

Of course, some herbicides and pesticides are more dangerous than others.

Part of the process in obtaining a pesticide-applicator licence is knowing and understanding toxicity levels of the product with which you are working.

Toxicity levels represent the amount of a product that it would take that, if consumed by a human, could be fatal.

The higher the toxicity level number representing a product, the less harmful that product would be to human health; the lower the number, the greater the toxicity results.

It's been a few years since I've had an applicators licence and I don't have a toxicity table in front of me.

Even without the toxicity table, though, there are two products I recall being similar in toxicity levels, meaning it would take roughly the same amount of each product to be ingested by a human to be possibly fatal.

Those two products are table salt and Roundup.

In other words, a person would have to ingest roughly the same amount of Roundup as he or she would table salt before it would result in a fatality.

If the general public understood more about these products, they may not be so afraid of their proper use.

***Gary Barber***

***Kamloops***



## 17 COMMENTS

---

1. *AHHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 5, 2015 at 1:33 am

'Pesticides' can be used as an 'umbrella term' that covers everything.

Which is the case here.

Persons in the field are aware of that.

72

9 Votes

Reply

2. *Betty*

June 5, 2015 at 9:38 am

Roundup...really.....One of Monsanto's worst legacies for the Planet. Read up on what has happened in Molokai Hawaii, using Roundup. Just because something has been used for 10 years or more, doesn't mean we should keep on using it.

62

Rate this

Reply

○ *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 8:43 pm

*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

RESPONDING AGAINST BETTY — A Monsanto Legacy ?!?! What the heck does that mean ?!?! This is yet another left-wing anti-business conspiracy theory espoused by pesticide-hating fanatics who know NOTHING about pest control products. Roundup is scientifically-safe, practically non-toxic, will cause NO harm, will NOT cause cancer, and will NOT cause irreversible damage if consumed orally.

00

Rate this

Reply

3. *Les Evens*

June 5, 2015 at 9:38 am

Do you know anybody that would like to test out your claim letter writer, and add "Round-up" to their next plate of food ? and do this regularly for a set period of time – like salt ?

Salt is a "natural product" of the Earth, "Round-up" is a chemical invention .

64

10 Votes

Reply

- o *HOP4ME*

June 5, 2015 at 11:21 am

ARSENIC IS A NATURAL PRODUCT TOO. EAT ALL YOU WANT.

92

11 Votes

Reply

- o *Gord Bacon*

June 5, 2015 at 11:47 am

As far as being "natural products" by this definition so are mercury, arsenic, uranium, sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide etc. Do not assume natural is good, you have to understand chemistry before you make comments that display ignorance.

112

13 Votes

Reply

- o *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 8:47 pm

*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

RESPONDING AGAINST LES EVENS — Natural vs chemical is a meaningless comparison. Furthermore, ANY HUMAN CONSUMPTION TEST IS A RIDICULOUSLY WORTHLESS STUNT ! According to Dr Keith R Solomon : « These materials [ pest control products used in the urban landscape ] are less toxic than table salt. I'm NOT suggesting you use them [ pest control products ] on your fish and chips, but just to put it into some sort of perspective ». Dr Keith Ross Solomon is a Doctorate-Level Expert and World Leading Scientific Expert in the Field of Environmental Biology, Toxicology, and Pesticide Safety. He is also Professor in the Department of Environmental Biology at the University of Guelph, Ontario, as well as Director of the Centre for Toxicology in Guelph, Ontario. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-1Lk> Pest control products, like 2,4-D and glyphosate, are no more dangerous than table salt, and, in fact, 2,4-D tastes like salt water. In the early 1940s, Dr R Milton Carleton was the co-developer of another ingredient that is JUST AS SAFE as glyphosate, 2,4-D herbicide. Dr Carleton usually carried a flask around with him that contained 2,4-D from which he would drink on request « just to prove it was harmless ». Anyone who knew the distinctive fish smell of 2,4-D knew that Dr Carleton was actually drinking

the real stuff. 2,4-D and Roundup are LESS TOXIC THAN Aspirin, baking soda, caffeine, cannabis, nicotine, table salt, and Tylenol. 2,4-D and Roundup are NO MORE TOXIC THAN ethanol ( an edible beverage constituent in beer, wine, and other intoxicating beverages ), mouthwash ( Listerine ), and Vitamin C. Pest control products like 2,4-D and Roundup are scientifically-safe, practically non-toxic, will cause NO harm, will NOT cause cancer, and will NOT cause irreversible damage if consumed orally.

00

Rate this

Reply

4. *Grouchy1*

June 5, 2015 at 10:21 am

Not one mention of the animals this will harm, nor the bees that it would destroy. We have to start somewhere, and this is that place.

94

13 Votes

Reply

5. *MyRealName*

June 5, 2015 at 1:11 pm

Gary is absolutely right. The LD50 for Glyphosate is higher than that of table salt. Meaning you need to eat more Glyphosate than salt in order to die. Even the 'dreaded' 2,4-D is less toxic than caffeine.

While poisoning is an important factor, the big C word keeps getting thrown around. Does it cause cancer?

Glyphosate is considered to be non-cancer causing by the scientific community.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0273230012000943>

64

10 Votes

Reply

o *AHHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 5, 2015 at 5:32 pm

Yes, as Tyler indicated, Roundup is a poison. But if you'd care to have a demonstration to prove the safety of the product you're endorsing, by all means.

I'm sure the media would cover the story, and most people would be very interested to tune in.

22

4 Votes

Reply

▪ *MyRealName*

June 6, 2015 at 5:12 pm

Everything has an LD50. Water has an LD50, meaning drinking too much water will kill you. Why would I eat something that isn't food?

You probably use shampoo, despite having never taken a shot of it. Urea is less toxic than salt, yet most people refuse to drink urine.

Saying "Why don't you drink it, if you say its so safe?" is a pointless exercise. Science has measured its toxicity and has shown it to be less than that of salt. Why would I drink something that probably tastes terrible in order to sate your refusal to accept scientific evidence?

00

Rate this

Reply

▪ *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 9:02 pm  
*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

RESPONDING AGAINST AHHH — It is ridiculous to imply that a product that controls pests somehow represents a danger to the community. Residents in Kamloops DO NOT have to be concerned about products like GLYPHOSATE ( Roundup ) since it WILL NOT CAUSE HARM TO PEOPLE, PETS, and THE ENVIRONMENT! Overall, pest control products used in the urban landscape SELECTIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY CONTROL disease, insect, and weed pests, but are COMPLETELY SAFE for other non-target organisms — they DO NOT INJURE TURFGRASSES, and have NO persistence beyond season of use. These products can be USED SAFELY because the amount required to affect human health is SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER than any potential level of exposure. The concept that a low level of exposure to a substance will not adversely affect human ties directly into the fundamental principle of toxicology — the study of negative effects on living systems — that « the dose makes the poison ». We are exposed daily to numerous examples of man-made and natural substances that may impact human health, but harmless in small doses ( example, low levels of naturally-occurring cyanide in almonds ), and conversely, ordinarily harmless substances that can be deadly if over-consumed ( example, water ). The impact of pest control products on human health and the environment is EXTENSIVELY EVALUATED by the Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada to ensure that these compounds, like other chemicals, such as prescription drugs and vitamins, are SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE when directions for use are properly followed.

00

Rate this

Reply

6. Tyler

June 5, 2015 at 1:36 pm

Ok Gary, I have a soup in which I replaced a dash of salt with a squirt of round-up. Want to try? You do know that on the bottle of round-up it says to call poison control if you ingest it? Please don't compare a known poison to salt. OR at least find some proof to back up that outrageous claim.

103

13 Votes

Reply

o MyRealName

June 5, 2015 at 7:45 pm

This is the MSDS sheet for roundup.

[https://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCUQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ces.ncsu.edu%2Ffletcher%2Fprograms%2Fxfmas%2Fpesticides%2Flabels%2FRoundup-orig-max-msds.pdf&ei=5FtyVa\\_1HYmvyQTW\\_IDwDw&usg=AFQjCNEtKX25nKNrGLIOznAk3DKWFHrgDg&sig2=jHMHjZuR6F9zW-FUoJ\\_VkA](https://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCUQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ces.ncsu.edu%2Ffletcher%2Fprograms%2Fxfmas%2Fpesticides%2Flabels%2FRoundup-orig-max-msds.pdf&ei=5FtyVa_1HYmvyQTW_IDwDw&usg=AFQjCNEtKX25nKNrGLIOznAk3DKWFHrgDg&sig2=jHMHjZuR6F9zW-FUoJ_VkA)

It lists the LD50 as >5000mg/kg. The first aid measures also make no mention of calling poison control. Only if symptoms occur, which is pretty much a boilerplate recommendation for anything. The only real danger is if you get it in your eyes, and even then it is only a mild irritant.

Wikipedia lists the LD50 of table salt at 3000mg/kg. Which means it takes less salt to reach the same number of rat deaths as it does glyphosate. Quite a bit less actually.

As for eating it... Why would you? Urea is even less poisonous but we still don't drink it. The "Why don't you drink it if its so safe" argument falls flat on its face. It has been scientifically proven to be less toxic than table salt.

33

6 Votes

Reply

- *AHHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 7, 2015 at 6:17 am

According to....Monsanto ?

00

Rate this

Reply

- *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 9:31 pm

*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

TO MY REAL NAME — Yayy !

00

Rate this

Reply

- *John D Franks*

June 5, 2015 at 9:46 pm

1) Roundup (glyphosphate), WHEN USED CORRECTLY saves thousands (tens of thousands?) of lives a year by assisting food-crop growth in developing countries. Most of those people would consider the UNPROVEN risk worth it considering the alternative of starvation and hunger (again, see <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0273230012000943>)  
2) Salt can sterilize a spot of ground for years vs. roundup's inert impact on soil — which is worse?

3) Paranoia and fear can cause negative health effects too!

33

Rate this

Reply

- *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 9:06 pm

*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

REPLY TO TAYLOR — The comparison is toxicologically legitimate. Roundup is NO MORE TOXIC THAN ethanol ( an edible beverage constituent in beer, wine, and other intoxicating beverages ), mouthwash ( Listerine ), and Vitamin C. Roundup is LESS TOXIC THAN Aspirin, baking soda, caffeine, cannabis, nicotine, table salt, and Tylenol. Again, according to LEADING EXPERT Dr Keith R Solomon : « These materials [ pest control products used in the urban landscape ] are less toxic than table salt. I'm NOT suggesting you use them [ pest control products ] on your fish and chips, but just to put it into some sort of perspective ».

00

Rate this

Reply

- 7. *AHHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 5, 2015 at 10:24 pm

Salt isn't on the list of this weekend's hazardous waste disposal items.

But pesticides are.

33

6 Votes

Reply

- o *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 9:16 pm

*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

RESPONDING AGAINST AHHH — TABLE SALT IS NOT HARMLESS ! There are documented chronic effects on humans. Table salt ( sodium chloride ) may cause adverse reproductive effects and birth defects in animals, particularly rats and mice. Sodium chloride causes adverse reproductive effects in humans ( fetotoxicity, abortion ) by intraplacental route. High intake of sodium chloride, whether from occupational exposure, or in the diet, may increase risk of toxemia of pregnancy in susceptible women. Hypertonic sodium chloride solutions have been used to induce abortion in late pregnancy by direct infusion into the uterus, but this route of administration is not relevant to occupational exposures. In view of this information, perhaps some fanatics like Ahhh will demand prohibition against table salt ?!?!

00

Rate this

Reply

8. *CHUMP*

June 6, 2015 at 1:06 am

So, let me get this straight. Council will ban cosmetic pesticides but a mine in city limits is okay? Wow.

92

11 Votes

Reply

- o *Thinker*

June 6, 2015 at 2:18 pm

Some on city council have their blinders firmly in place re:Ajax. Another recent issue was the protection offered to liquor stores that will ensure no other liquor stores can locate within 1 km of existing ones. But they won't stand up for homeowners in Aberdeen and Upper Sahali who would be a few kms from a huge open pit mine? I expect Milobar, Christian and Wallace to turn a blind eye given their ideology, but I hoped for much more from Marg Spina.

92

11 Votes

Reply

- o *Jennifer*

June 6, 2015 at 10:49 pm

Mercury, arsenic, lead, all present naturally in rock and released in what can be toxic amounts due to mine blasting. This surely will have an effect on food grown in the city. What is released into the atmosphere comes down. I won't be eating local veggies or fruit when Ajax gets going. It blows my mind that city council can be so adamant about spraying and so silent about the threat to health that Ajax will be. I see lots of cars around with "I support Ajax" signs, hopefully they will be confident and eat local produce and meat.

10

1 Vote

Reply

9. *KayB*

June 6, 2015 at 12:23 pm

Yes, Gary, there is science about table salt vs glyphosphate, which you have accurately stated, but,,,,, as stated in Catalyst Magazine..... he weed killer( glyphosate) acts as an endocrine disruptor, inhibiting progesterone production. It may cause genetic damage at even sub-agricultural levels.

Even though Roundup breaks down more quickly in water, frogs and fish are far more sensitive to it than terrestrial animals. Runoff containing glyphosate-based herbicides can cause fish kills.

The compound does not degrade as quickly in soil as Monsanto reported. In loamy, humus-based soils,

the half-life of Roundup may be only about three days, BUT IN CLAY SOILS —prone to shedding water rather than absorbing it—it may hang around for months or even years.

Roundup was originally promoted as a way for farmers to cut back on tilling (the standard form of weed control) and curb the problem of erosion. It also helped phase out the pesticides associated with deadly dioxins. Forty years later, it has solidly ingratiated itself into the agricultural sector, with its own line of Roundup-ready grains. It is also, according to the EPA, the second most-used pesticide in the home and garden sector. There is little doubt that glyphosate-based weedkillers ARE BEING OVERUSED. The truth is that we just don't need the stuff.

...plants that die of Roundup preserve the glyphosate in their dead roots, stems and leaves—and the chemical can be reactivated as this plant matter decays, especially if the soil is subsequently treated with a phosphorus-bearing fertilizer. This is bad news for both gardens and waterways.

Another view..... I'll stick with the homemade stuff for now, thank you ! Let's ban the city use of pesticides.

72

Rate this

Reply

- o WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

June 7, 2015 at 9:29 pm

*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

RESPONDING TO KAYB — In essence, KayB is alleging ( falsely ) that home-made pest control concoctions, consisting of vinegar and dish soap, are somehow safer than conventional pest control products. Really !?! WARNING ! Home-made pest control concoctions are bogus, illegal, untested, unproven, and often dangerous. They are not scientifically tested. These pest control concoctions are NOT subject to stringent, science-based evaluations, and are not supported by scientific research and documentation. Moreover, home-made pest control concoctions violate federal law ! <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2Gf> Additionally, concoctions with vinegar and dish soap are NOT valid, NOT effective, NOT legal, NOT economical, and NOT safer as alternatives to legally-registered conventional pest control products. Virtually all such alternatives are bogus. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> It is a violation of federal law to recommend or sell products for controlling pests that are not registered under the federal law. If someone recommends or sells material with the claim that it controls pests, it technically becomes a pest control product. Such a claim, in either verbal or written form, regarding an unregistered product becomes technically a violation of federal law. Additionally, preparing, storing, and using unregistered home-made pest control concoctions can pose risks to health and environment. Most often, these pest control concoctions and recommendations are written by anonymous or non-expert authors who KNOW NOTHING about pest control. Conventional products, such as Roundup, cannot be replaced by bogus, illegal, untested, unproven, and often dangerous concoctions !

00

Rate this

Reply

10. WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

June 7, 2015 at 8:38 pm

*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

Gary Barber is ABSOLUTELY CORRECT ! EPA, Health Canada, and other science-based regulatory agencies have clearly demonstrated that Roundup is LESS TOXIC THAN Aspirin, baking soda, caffeine, cannabis, nicotine, table salt, and Tylenol. Roundup is NO MORE TOXIC THAN ethanol ( an edible beverage constituent in beer, wine, and other intoxicating beverages ), mouthwash ( Listerine ), and Vitamin C. Roundup is scientifically-safe, practically non-toxic, will cause NO harm, will NOT cause cancer,

and will NOT cause irreversible damage if consumed orally. The probable lethal dose for a person ingesting the concentrated form of GLYPHOSATE is ONE LITRE, the volume of an entire milk carton. By comparison, drinking SIX LITRES of water, a fluid that is seemingly harmless, can lead to water poisoning or dilutional hyponatremia, which is a potentially fatal disturbance in brain functions. In essence, water is only FIVE TIMES SAFER than Roundup. For more information about GLYPHOSATE, go to ... <http://wp.me/P1jq40-1Jb>

00

Rate this

Reply

11. *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 8:52 pm

*Your comment is awaiting moderation.*

RESPONDING TO GROUCHY — Which animals are you referring to?!?! Bees are harmed by Roundup?!?! Really?!?! Hurling around these kinds of statements is SENSELESS AND RECKLESS !

00

Rate this