



Roundup and salt equally toxic to humans

By: [Kamloops This Week](#) in [Letters](#), [Opinion](#) June 5, 2015 [36 Comments](#) [1305 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

36 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.

75

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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.

94

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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 .

98

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o *HOP4ME*

June 5, 2015 at 11:21 am

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

154

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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.

182

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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.

117

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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>

74

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- *AHHHHHHHHHH!*

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.

24

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- *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?

42

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- *AHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 9, 2015 at 5:50 pm

MyRealName –

People are suggesting you drink it because you and your co-horts insist it's safe.

Children and pets can't read warning signs, and they DO eat the treated grass !

And they walk on it in bare feet/paws.

And they do get sick !

22

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- *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 9:02 pm

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.

66

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o Tyler

June 8, 2015 at 11:54 am

@MyRealName

Interesting article. But I also found a few more in the literature opposing yours:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0300483X09003047> (Glyphosate-based herbicides are toxic and endocrine disruptors in human cell lines)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691513003633> (Glyphosate induces human breast cancer cells growth via estrogen receptors)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0887233311003341> (A glyphosate-based herbicide induces necrosis and apoptosis in mature rat testicular cells in vitro, and testosterone decrease at lower levels)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0890623806002711>(Effects of the herbicide Roundup on the epididymal region of drakes *Anas platyrhynchos*)

Here's an excerpt from the last article's Abstract: "Exposure to the Roundup has been shown to affect StAR protein and aromatase expression and activity, pointing out that this herbicide may cause adverse effects in animal reproduction by affecting androgen and estrogen synthesis.... this herbicide may cause disorder in the morphophysiology of the male genital system of animals."

Not sure about you, but I like my genitals intact.

Your article that it may not cause cancer may be valid, but it still causes birth defects and disruption of cell function and cell death in animal cells and even in the reproductive organs. Things don't have to just cause cancer to be bad for human health.

53

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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.

135

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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%2Fmax%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.

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- *AHHHHHHHHH!*

June 7, 2015 at 6:17 am

According to....Monsanto ?

24

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- *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!

75

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- *AHHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 9, 2015 at 6:01 pm

John D. Franks –
Let's not start on the topic of GMO.
Or the suicide rates that were due to certain chemical companies' practices.
Just by the implication that Roundup' saves thousands of lives', well, we can guess
who you represent.
The topic today, boys and girls, is a ban that our city should have introduced 7 – 12
years ago, when others had started.
It's overdue.

13

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- *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

June 7, 2015 at 9:06 pm

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 ».

31

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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.

46

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- WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

June 7, 2015 at 9:16 pm

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 !?!

33

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- *Wakeup*

June 8, 2015 at 12:02 pm

Salt like anything else will trigger adverse effects in some people. Some of us are more susceptible to the adversity than others. Same is true with pesticides. The fact that one thing is adverse to some humans like salt it does not justify the use of pesticides if they trigger adversity in people that may not be affected by too much salt.

02

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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.

184

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- 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.

174

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- *Ron Watt*

June 7, 2015 at 7:47 pm

Perhaps you should quantify your remarks more carefully. I live in upper Sahali and it is YOUR view that does not nearly reflect mine.

37

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- *Wakeup*

June 8, 2015 at 5:30 pm

Our society is in deep trouble because there are few who determine how many of us will be poisoned so let me quote one of my favorite poets .Percy Bysshe Shelley

“Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number-
Shake your chains to earth like
dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you
Ye are many-they are few.”

12

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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.

51

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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..... the 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.

85

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10. *AHHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 7, 2015 at 6:21 am

To my knowledge, dandelions have never killed anyone.
Can the same be said about pestiCIDES ?

24

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o *Ron Watt*

June 8, 2015 at 9:04 am

I once got pretty sick on Uncle Zeke's dandilion wine!

11

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- *AHHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 9, 2015 at 6:08 pm

Were the dandelions sprayed with pesticides ?
(They have to be organic to be used in wine or salads.)

13

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11. WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

June 7, 2015 at 8:52 pm

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 !

55

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- *PeterS*

June 8, 2015 at 7:54 am

Wow, maybe you two should lay off the table salt as it is probably contributing to you hypertension in that you keep screaming at other commenters...upper case denotes yelling and screaming !!

54

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o *anita*

June 8, 2015 at 4:10 pm

William Gathercole,

Yes, bees are harmed by roundup. Maybe your uninformed conclusions are senseless and reckless. I didn't have to yell it either because the proof is in the chemistry and the studies. http://www.naturalnews.com/046769_Roundup_honeybees_colony_collapse_disorder.html

23

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12. *Don Barz*

June 8, 2015 at 10:15 am

Bees are pests? Gee, I always thought they were beneficial pollinators.

According to Dr. Mercola

"Monsanto has steadfastly claimed that Roundup is harmless to animals and humans because the mechanism of action it uses (which allows it to kill weeds), called the shikimate pathway, is absent in all animals. However, the shikimate pathway IS present in bacteria, and that's the key to understanding how it causes such widespread systemic harm in both humans and animals.

The bacteria in your body outnumber your cells by 10 to one. For every cell in your body, you have 10 microbes of various kinds, and all of them have the shikimate pathway, so they will all respond to the presence of glyphosate!

Glyphosate causes extreme disruption of the microbe's function and lifecycle. What's worse, glyphosate preferentially affects beneficial bacteria, allowing pathogens to overgrow and take over, including the highly toxic *Clostridium botulinum*."

I always had a "gut feeling" that the effects of glyphosate are more insidious than the regulators realize. This is a case of scientists looking at the wrong receptors (cells) when doing their studies, and ignoring the potentially harmful effects on beneficial bacteria. What do the pesticide applicator booklets say about this?

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13. *Judy McRann*

June 8, 2015 at 6:32 pm

Pesticides:

- 1) Don't solve pest problems. We need to change the conditions that make pests thrive.
- 2) Are hazardous to our health.
- 3) Cause special problems for children.
- 4) Contaminate our food.
- 5) Are particularly hazardous to farmers, farm workers and people who live near them.
- 6) Are dangerous to pets.
- 7) Contaminate our water.
- 8) Are not good for fish and birds.
- 9) " Health and Safety Testing" is conducted by chemical companies.
- 10) Just have too many secrets !

Mother Nature has given us a magical world of treasures . We need to respect Her beauty indeed.

23

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- o *AHHHHHHHHHH!*

June 9, 2015 at 6:11 pm

Judy McRann –
Well said !

13

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