

HorticultureWeek

Roundup welcomes glyphosate approval

30 June 2016, by Matthew Appleby, [Be the first to comment](#)

After the European Commission extended glyphosate use until the end of 2017, Roundup says the approval is a good thing but questions the "politicisation" of the process".



Roundup business manager Gary Philpotts said of the [temporary glyphosate authorisation](#):

"Although the extension of the [glyphosate](#) approval for an additional 18 months seems like a good outcome we need to remember that the renewal process has become politicised and derailed by activists and campaigners peddling mistruths, highly

selective and frankly false information to apply pressure on Member States in order to achieve their goal of a total glyphosate ban.

"Of course in light of the current refusal of the Standing Committee to take the recommendations of the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) and BfR [the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment], following a five-year approval process, to renew the glyphosate licence, an extension was the only logical course for the commission to take. On the scientific evidence, this should have been a straightforward renewal.

"It does however brings into question the role of expert scientific bodies within the EU when they are totally ignored by the member states.

"Let's be clear, in spite of what the campaigners will tell you, glyphosate is not a risk to human health, as confirmed by EFSA and every other regulatory authority around the world.

"Remember EFSA are responsible for food safety for over 500 million Europeans, so they are thorough and comprehensive in their approach. There is no alternative to glyphosate that has a better safety and efficacy profile, there just isn't.

"Let's hope that the next year provides an opportunity for common sense and the scientific evidence to prevail in this prolonged and irrational process. If not, the negative consequences for farmers, horticulture and garden owners cannot be underestimated."

Meanwhile, since early May pressure group Global Justice Now, has sent over 1,000 Monsanto Exposed [brandalism packs](#) to activists across the country. The spoof labels warn that the product is classified as 'probably causing cancer' and that Monsanto's corporate control of agriculture 'degrades farmers' power'.

- *For more news and background on the debate surrounding the [safety of glyphosate](#) - see our dedicated [glyphosate page](#)*

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