

Iowa State University

Weed Science

Glyphosate, glyphosate resistant crops, crop production, plant diseases and health

by Bob Hartzler and Mike Owen

Information presented recently on the web and in seminars across the Midwest has portrayed devastating consequences due to the widespread use of glyphosate and glyphosate resistant crops. It is important to recognize that there is little data published in refereed journals to support these claims, and data that are available have been taken greatly out of context to support the accusations. The issues and claims have been brought forward by Dr. Don Huber, retired Professor of Plant Pathology at Purdue University. Recently, faculty from Purdue University have responded to these claims and using peer-reviewed science, have refuted the statements made by Dr. Huber. Their final statement summarizes the available evidence of the impact glyphosate and GMO crops have on plant health; "**We encourage crop producers, agribusiness personnel, and the general public to speak with University Extension personnel before making changes in crop production practices that are based on sensationalist claims instead of facts**". The Purdue University statement can be found at:

<http://www.blny.purdue.edu/weedscience/2011/GlyphosatesImpact1.pdf>

An article providing an overview of the effects of glyphosate on mineral nutrition and plant diseases was prepared earlier by weed scientists at Iowa State University.

<http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/mgmt/2010/glyMndisease.pdf>

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Common chemical and trade names are used in this publication. The use of trade names is for clarity by the reader. Inclusion of a trade name does not imply endorsement of that particular brand of herbicide and exclusion does not imply nonapproval.