



BEYOND PESTICIDES

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Organizing Packet – Resources for Action

Community change is possible.

Many communities across the country have taken a stand against the use of toxic pesticides on their lawns and landscapes. Whether it's your local government, homeowner's association, or child's playing field, you can make positive change and get unnecessary toxins out of your community. It takes a lot of work and commitment, but it can be done with some perseverance.

Organizing Assistance:

- [Start Your Own Local Movement](#)
 - Key points to focus on and steps you can take to organize in your community
- [Getting the Message Across](#)
 - Helpful tips on how to talk to your neighbors about pesticides.
- [Change.org – Start a Petition](#)

Did you know??

In 2013 [Takoma Park, Maryland](#) (pop ~17k) passed a law which restricted lawn care pesticides on public and private property. Now, a majority of council members in [Montgomery County, Maryland](#) (pop ~1 mil), are sponsoring a bill to enact similar restrictions. The small town of Ogunquit, Maine [passed](#) a ballot measure this election cycle to restrict landscape pesticide use.

The Hazards of Pesticide Use: See the [Pesticide Induced Diseases Database](#) for More Information

- [Health Effects of 30 Commonly Used Lawn Care Pesticides](#)
 - This document lays out the facts on frequently used cosmetic lawn care pesticides.
 - [Focus in on Roundup \(glyphosate\) with this fact sheet](#)
 - [Focus in on 2,4-D with this fact sheet](#)
- [Children and Pesticides Don't Mix](#)
 - Easy to read bullet points and references for a number of recent studies associating pesticide use with adverse health impacts in children.
- [American Academy of Pediatrics Report on Pesticide Exposure in Children](#)
 - "Children encounter pesticides daily and have unique susceptibilities to their potential toxicity," the report states.
- [Pesticides and Pets](#)
 - Pets are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure.

Organic Lawn Care Alternatives: See the [Tools for Change](#) Page for More Information

- [Organic Lawn Care 101](#)
 - Fall is the best time to prime your lawn to go organic!
- [Simple Guide to Creating a Healthy Lawn](#)
 - Learn about the conditions promoting weeds and how you can correct them.
- [Least Toxic Control of Weeds](#)
 - Lists alternative products and practices to chemical-intensive lawn care.
- In-Depth Documents on Organic Lawn Care
 - [Establishing Sustainable Lawns](#)
 - [Maintaining Sustainable Lawns](#)

Pollinator Protection: See the [BEE Protective Webpage](#) for More Information

- [No Longer a BIG Mystery](#) - Beyond Pesticides' new report summarizing the science behind bee declines. The document provides scientific evidence demonstrating that pesticides, especially the neonicotinoid class of insecticides have sublethal and chronic impacts on bee behavior, immune systems, and colony longevity.
- [Managing Landscapes with Pollinators in Mind](#) - How we manage various ecosystems and landscapes plays a critical role in long-term pollinator health.
- [Bees, Birds and Beneficials](#)- An expanded look at the range of harmful impacts threatening pollinators and wildlife. Delve into the issue of systemics and genetic engineering-induced habitat loss. Read about the organic path forward that is needed to protect the natural world.

Points to Remember:

- Of the 30 most commonly used lawn pesticides, 17 are possible and/or known carcinogens, 18 have the potential to disrupt the endocrine (hormonal) system, 19 are linked to reproductive effects and sexual dysfunction, 11 have been linked to birth defects, 14 are neurotoxic, 24 can cause kidney or liver damage, and 25 are sensitizers and/or irritants
- Children take in more pesticides relative to body weight than adults and are less able to detoxify toxic chemicals.
- Lawn and landscape pesticides drift and can be tracked into homes where they are inhaled and ingested and can remain for up to a year.
- Suburban lawns and gardens use more pesticides per acre than agriculture.
- Exposure to herbicides before the age of one is linked to a four-fold increase in childhood asthma
- There are effective, organic alternatives to nearly every pest problem