



# Transformative Change

## Informed by Science, Policy, and Action

This special issue of *Pesticides and You*, **Transformative Change: Informed by Science, Policy, and Action**, a companion issue to **Retrospective 2021: A Call to Urgent Action**, captures the increasing urgency of the petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer threat to health, biodiversity, and climate, and actions being taken to chart a path for a livable future. Whether talking about serious health threats from chemical-induced diseases, the collapse of life-sustaining biodiversity, or the dramatic destruction caused by greenhouse gases and rising and erratic temperatures, the interconnectedness of the crises requires strategic solutions that are holistic and nurturing of nature.

The failure to heed the preponderance of the independent, peer-reviewed scientific evidence of catastrophic harm on the horizon and the deficiencies in safety standards and risk assessments are a deadly mix. In the U.S. and worldwide, the foundation of conventional agriculture and the management of the built environment are intricately tied to polluting practices, with disproportionate harm affecting segments of the society that are exploited, low income, in ill-health, and disproportionately people of color.

This issue is a tool for transformative change that embraces the viability of clear alternatives. The documented science and the policy failures support Beyond Pesticides' call for an end to petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use within a decade and compel the widespread and expeditious adoption of organic management to replace chemical-intensive practices.

The findings and citations in this issue are supplemented by Beyond Pesticides' Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database and other documentation housed on the organizations' website. All links to referenced material, highlighted in blue text, are available in the electronic version of this issue, also on the Beyond Pesticides' website.

Contributing writers to this issue include Beyond Pesticides staff (Drew Toher, Akayla Bracey, Jay Feldman, and Jocelyn Cordell), board member and science consultant Terry Shistar, PhD, and writer Debra Simes. Design services by David Gerratt, NonprofitDesign.com.

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