BERNARDO SANTA FE

Homeowners' Association

Pesticides and Children

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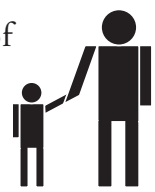
...what we all should know about pesticides *(herbicides, insecticides, fungicides)*

It was recently reported that 41% of the EPA approved lawn pesticide products include ingredients that are banned or restricted in other countries due to their health and environmental impacts.

The National Academy of Sciences estimates that one in 7 adults suffers acute symptoms of pesticide poisoning. These chemicals can be easily inhaled or absorbed by the skin and can cause irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat, nausea, tremors, headaches, diarrhea and muscles aches as well as skin irritation such as burning, stinging, itches, rashes, and blisters.

Exposure to pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) are also linked with chronic illnesses such as cancer, behavioral impairment, reproductive dysfunction, endocrine disruption, developmental disabilities, ADHD, Autism, Parkinson's Syndrome, learning disabilities, skin conditions and respiratory diseases such as asthma.

It has been reported that children are particularly sensitive to pesticide chemicals. Children in families that use professional pest control services are at a higher risk of developing leukemia than children in families that don't use pesticides.



A recent US EPA study found that residues from outdoor pesticides are tracked in by pets and people's shoes, and can increase the pesticide load in carpet dust as much as 400-fold. These pesticides will persist indoors for years, even decades after application.

Roundup Danger

There is a bevy of new evidence that implicates the herbicide **Roundup** and its active ingredient glyphosate in everything from human defects to lymphoma.

Roundup is the most widely used weed-killer in the USA. This product is literally everywhere in our air and water due to its prevalent usage in horticulture and agriculture and at homes where mothers and fathers spray the product around their children without knowing any better.

Please, consider these implications before using this product in our community. There are many safe organic alternatives that can be used instead.

Source: http://www.safelawns.org

We encourage you to share with us successful natural alternatives to keep our community free of toxic chemicals. E-mail your recommendations to our BSFHOA at *contact@bsfhoa.org*

Tip of the Month

Clover: a natural fertilizer, traps nitrogen from the atmosphere in its own roots and fixes it into the soil in organic forms for its own use as well as for the grass growing around it. Because it was evergreen, draught-tolerant, low growing and capable of manufacturing its own fertilizer, clover had been part of seed mixes since the American cultivation of lawns. However, 75 years ago, a broad leaf herbicide marketed by Scotts, unfortunately, killed clover along with unwanted weeds. Since then, for marketing purposes of the Scotts lawn herbicide, clover was declared a lawn weed. Scotts, who had been adding white clover to its grass seed lawn mixtures for years, began marketing a product that created a demise to such valuable natural lawn fertilizer.

A note: When white clover invades a lawn naturally, it develops initially in patches of almost pure clover. Because the patches stand out, they can look unsightly and often the first reaction is to get rid of them. However, if the lawn is managed to encourage clover, it will eventually be distributed throughout the lawn and, with the associated grasses and herbs, contribute to a thick turf and a pleasing mosaic of leaf textures. Small-leaf white clover varieties are recommended for lawns.

Sources:

http://www.safelawns.org

http://versicolor.ca/lawns/docs/clover.html