

IARC CLASSIFICATION OF 2,4-D KEY MESSAGES

Current as of June 18, 2015

CONFIDENTIAL & UNDER EMBARGO

Key Messages / Talking Points:

All Pesticides, Including Glyphosate, Are Highly Regulated & Carefully Reviewed

- Pesticides are highly regulated and carefully reviewed products. The responsibility and expertise for conducting these reviews is vested in national and regional regulatory agencies around the world, such as the U.S. EPA. Among many other things, these regulatory agencies undertake detailed assessments of whether a pesticide and its use will pose a cancer risk.
- When it comes to glyphosate, regulatory agencies have been clear for decades that all labeled uses of glyphosate are safe for human health. In fact, the U.S. EPA classified glyphosate in its lowest category for carcinogenicity. In 2013, the EPA again noted glyphosate “does not pose a cancer risk to humans.”
- This past January, another comprehensive, multiyear safety review was completed as part of the European Union’s renewal of approval for glyphosate. The conclusion was that glyphosate was unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk in humans.
- Farmers and other users of pesticides depend on a robust regulatory process to ensure that they can use these products safely according to labeled instructions. When a program like IARC takes such a different approach to reviewing highly regulated products, differences in the process and outcome can cause concern and confusion.

IARC Process Vastly Differs from Regulatory Reviews

- IARC’s process is very different from that of regulatory agencies. It doesn’t assess or look at real-world risk, use or exposure.
- [According to IARC’s own statements](#), “The IARC Monographs Programme evaluates **cancer hazards but not the risks associated with exposure.**”
- IARC reviews only selective publicly available information and, in the case of glyphosate, did not take the recent EU review into account.
- Relevant scientific data were dismissed as not contributing to reach the conclusion, such as the recently completed review conducted on behalf of the European Union. No link between glyphosate and an increase in cancer is identified when the full data set is included in a rigorous review.
- IARC’s assessment of glyphosate differs from the conclusions of regulatory agencies all over the world and the findings of three separate WHO programs.
- Other substances classified in Category 2 by IARC include picked vegetables, aloe vera extract and occupations such as being a barber or fry cook.

IARC Review Created Unnecessary Confusion, Concern

- It’s unfortunate that IARC’s conclusion has created confusion and concern. IARC’s conclusion conflicts with the overwhelming consensus by regulatory bodies and science organizations such as the U.S. EPA, Health Canada and other agencies. See running list of statements here: <http://www.monsanto.com/iarc-roundup/pages/default.aspx>
- We continue to engage with industry partners and government agencies in an attempt to understand how IARC arrived at a conclusion about glyphosate that is such a dramatic departure from regulatory agencies around the world.

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- We now understand that IARC's monograph on glyphosate will be available in July. We will review that monograph in detail once it has been issued.
- For more information on glyphosate, please visit monsanto.com/glyphosate, discover.monsanto.com, GMOAnswers.com or glyphosate.eu.

Glyphosate Has a 40-Year History of Safe Use

- Glyphosate-based herbicides have a 40-year history of safe use. Glyphosate is the primary active ingredient in Roundup® brand herbicides and many other herbicide products. It's a valuable tool to help control weeds in driveways and in lawns and gardens, along roads and highways, and on the farm.
- Glyphosate offers a number of benefits to all of us – not just farmers. On the farm, glyphosate helps farmers use a technique called low-till or no-till farming that reduces a farm's carbon footprint. And around the house, glyphosate is a useful tool to help control noxious weeds, like poison ivy.
- Regulatory agencies around the world have reviewed glyphosate carefully over the decades and repeatedly and consistently concluded that all labeled uses of glyphosate are safe for human health and supported by one of the most extensive worldwide human health databases ever compiled on an agricultural product. Glyphosate acts on an enzyme found in plants, but not in human or animal cells.

IARC and 2,4-D

- In addition to glyphosate, IARC has now reviewed another round of crop protection chemicals, including 2,4-D. IARC classified 2,4-D in Category 2B.
- Farmers depend on a range of tools to control weeds in a precise and effective way. Monsanto does not manufacture 2,4-D, but we do sell it through dealers in Argentina and Brazil.
- All crop protection products are subject to robust reviews by regulatory agencies around the world. Farmers, consumers and others depend on these regulatory reviews to arrive at conclusions about safety that are non-biased, thorough and based on science that adheres to internationally recognized standards.