

Treat land with care, not chemicals.



ORGANIC PESTICIDES

Organic pesticides are not necessarily safe for pollinators. Some can be relatively safe assuming proper usage and timing. However, many are not safe, and most haven't been tested yet for caterpillars, bees, and other pollinators. We always discourage blanket treatments. Instead, identify the pest and use a targeted approach. Check out "Choose A Pest" at BeyondPesticides.org

SAFETY: TESTING & LABELING

Don't assume that if a pesticide is on the market, it must be safe.

- Pesticides are tested primarily by the manufacturers.
- Tests are done on the active ingredient only, not the complete formulation.
- Tests are done for a limited population, which does not include children or people with existing health issues.
- There is no testing to determine effects of combinations of pesticides—multiple chemicals used in one yard or different chemicals used on neighboring properties that combine through drift or stormwater runoff.
- Government standards have been lowered in recent years.
- Many other countries have banned pesticides which are still available in the U.S.



PESTICIDES ON THE COASTLINE

With shoreline and coastal communities, it is important to preserve water quality, vegetation (e.g. marsh grass and seaweed), and the many fish, crustaceans, and mullosks.

To do this we must minimize the pesticides and fertilizers used - a significant fraction is transported into the water and has been shown to adversely affect vegetation and the living creatures in the water. The aquatic environment gets contaminated by the application of pesticides through several routes: runoff, spray drift, and leaching, which pose serious health risks to the aquatic ecosystems as well as to human beings.

Pesticides can also reduce the availability of plants and insects that serve as habitat and food for fish and other aquatic animals.

Pollinator Pathway
Pollinator-Pathway.org
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Beyond Pesticides
BeyondPesticides.org

Pesticide Action Network
PANNA.org

Protect Our Pollinators
ProPollinators.org



Cover Photo: Hoverfly Pollinating Boneset

Coastal Pesticide Free CARE FOR YARDS



Pollinator Pathway

WHAT IS A PESTICIDE?

Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides—anything designed to kill something we don’t want, like crab grass, grubs, or ticks. Seventy-eight million households use them, herbicides being the largest category. Over 90 million pounds of weed killer are applied to lawns and gardens each year.

WHY GO PESTICIDE-FREE?

If you are on the Pollinator Pathway, or considering joining, it’s especially important to avoid pesticides. If you attract pollinators, by planting native pollinator-friendly plants, make sure no pesticides are present on your lawn or garden that could harm them. Check Pollinator-Pathway.org for alternative ways to repel pests, like companion planting, inviting pest predators, and using barriers and traps for protection. And the bonus is that when you create safe habitat for pollinators, you also are creating healthy conditions for birds, insects, wildlife, your soil, rivers and streams, your pets, your children, and you!



HUMAN HEALTH

According to Beyond Pesticides, of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides:

- 13 are possible carcinogens
- 13 are linked with birth defects
- 21 with reproductive effects
- 15 with neurotoxicity
- 26 with liver or kidney damage
- 11 have the potential to disrupt the endocrine (hormonal) system



CHILDREN’S HEALTH

With higher metabolic rates and a lower ability to detoxify their bodies, children are especially susceptible to absorbing and retaining toxins. Numerous studies have linked an increased exposure to pesticides to learning disabilities, childhood cancer, and other illnesses.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

There is particularly strong research linking pesticide exposure to reduced sperm count and quality, early puberty in girls, birth defects, miscarriage and stillbirth.

PET HEALTH

Pets live in our yards in ways we do not. They roll around, sniff, and even consume the outdoor environment. Studies link lawn products with a significantly higher risk of canine malignant lymphoma (CML). Weed killers containing 2,4-D have been specifically linked to canine cancers, including lymphoma and bladder cancer. 2,4-D is found in many lawn care products including combination products such as Weed-N-Feed type formulations, which are banned in most of Canada and parts of Europe.



TICKS & MOSQUITOES

Spraying for ticks or mosquitoes will weaken and kill pollinators. To reduce likelihood of infection from tick bites, personal protection measures (including regularly checking yourself for ticks) are most effective. Landscape modification (for example, removal of barberry, ticks’ favorite home) will also help. Rather than commercial spraying, consider Tick Bait Boxes or a fungal spray Met-52. To reduce mosquitoes, eliminate standing water on your property. Where standing water cannot be eliminated, MosquitoDunks can be used to kill larvae. To control any pest, having diverse native plantings, which encourage birds and other predators, is beneficial.


PESTICIDE-FREE BENEFITS



Biodiversity in your yard



Your family’s health



The community at large