

where is glyphosate banned

Posted by Joan Russow
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A number of cities, counties, states and countries throughout the world have taken steps to either restrict or ban glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup weed killer.

The following countries have issued outright bans on glyphosate, imposed restrictions or have issued statements of intention to ban or restrict glyphosate-based herbicides, including Roundup, over health concerns and the ongoing Roundup cancer litigation:

Argentina: Over 30,000 health care professionals advocated for a glyphosate ban following the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC) report on glyphosate, which concluded the chemical is probably carcinogenic to humans. More than 400 towns and cities in Argentina have passed measures restricting glyphosate use.

Australia: Numerous municipalities and school districts throughout the country are currently testing alternative herbicides in an effort to curtail or eliminate glyphosate use. Many use steam technology for weed control on streets and in other public areas.

Belgium: Banned the individual use of glyphosate. In 2017, Belgium voted against relicensing glyphosate in the EU. The country was also one of six EU member states to sign a letter to the EU Commission calling for "an exit plan for glyphosate..." The city of Brussels banned the use of glyphosate within its territory as part of its "zero pesticides" policy.

Bermuda: Outlawed private and commercial sale of all glyphosate-based herbicides. In 2017, the government relaxed its ban on glyphosate, allowing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to import restricted concentrations of glyphosate for managing roadside weed overgrowth.

Brazil: In August of 2018, a federal judge in Brasilia ruled that new products containing glyphosate could not be registered in the country. Existing regulations concerning glyphosate were also suspended, pending a reevaluation of toxicological data by Anvisa, the country's health agency. In September of 2018, a Brazilian court overturned the federal judge's ruling. September marks Brazil's first month of soybean planting. The country is the largest exporter of

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soybeans in the world, and as such, has become heavily reliant on agrochemicals. Anvisa issued a statement following the court's decision to overturn the ruling, saying it will take necessary legal and technical steps in response. Further, Brazil's Solicitor General's office has said it is preparing an appeal to the court decision with support from the Agriculture Ministry.

Canada: Eight out of the 10 provinces in Canada have some form of restriction on the use of non-essential cosmetic pesticides, including glyphosate. Vancouver has banned public and private use of glyphosate, aside from the treatment of invasive weeds.

Colombia: In 2015, Colombia outlawed the use of glyphosate to destroy illegal plantations of coca, the raw ingredient for cocaine, out of concern that glyphosate causes cancer. However, in January of 2017, the country reinstated its controversial glyphosate fumigation program for coca. Unlike the previous program, which used aerial fumigation, the new program consists of manual spraying from the ground.

Czech Republic: Agriculture Minister Miroslav Toman said the country will limit glyphosate use starting in 2019. Specifically, the Czech Republic will ban glyphosate as a weedkiller and drying agent.

Denmark: The Danish Working Environment Authority declared glyphosate to be carcinogenic and has recommended a change to less toxic chemicals. Aalborg, one of the largest cities in Denmark, issued private-use glyphosate ban in September of 2017. In July of 2018, the Danish government implemented new rules banning the use of glyphosate on all post-emergent crops to avoid residues on foods.

El Salvador: Banned glyphosate over links to deadly kidney disease.

England: Following the landmark \$289 million Monsanto Roundup verdict on Aug. 10, 2018, Homebase, one of England's largest DIY retailers, announced that it would review the sale of Roundup and Ranger Pro. A number of townships, including Brighton, Frensham, Hammersmith & Fulham, Bristol, Glastonbury, Frome, Erewash, North Somerset, Lewes and Wadebridge have also voted to institute restrictions on pesticides and herbicides, including glyphosate.

France: In November of 2017, President Emmanuel Macron announced that France would issue an outright ban on glyphosate within the next three years.

Germany: According to Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, Germany plans to update its conditions for pesticide approval and will seek an end date for glyphosate use. Certain retail stores in Germany have also pulled glyphosate-based herbicides like Roundup from shelves.

Greece: Greece was one of nine EU countries to vote against relicensing glyphosate in November of 2017. The country was also one of six EU member states to sign a 2018 letter to the European Commission calling for "an exit plan for glyphosate..." According to Greek Minister of Agricultural Development Evangelos Apostolou, "[i]t is our duty to push in the direction of risk management, in the interests of consumers, producers and the environment." In March of 2018, the Greek government approved a five-year license for Monsanto's Roundup

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against the wishes of Greek environmentalists.

Italy: Italy's Ministry of Health placed a number of restrictions on glyphosate use. Italian legislators have also raised concerns about glyphosate safety, and have come out against relicensing the herbicide in the European Union. In 2016, the Italian government banned the use of glyphosate as a pre-harvest treatment and placed restrictions on glyphosate use in areas frequented by the public. In November of 2017, Italy was one of seven EU nations to vote against relicensing glyphosate.

India: In October of 2018, the government of Punjab banned the sale of glyphosate in the state. "All pesticide manufacturers, marketers and dealers in the State shall not sell glyphosate formulations-concentrations with immediate effect. The licensing authorities have been asked to take necessary steps for removal of entries for glyphosate from the licenses issued by them," said State Agriculture Secretary K.S. Pannu.

Luxembourg: One of Luxembourg's largest supermarket chains removed glyphosate from its shelves following the release of the IARC glyphosate report. Luxembourg was one of nine EU countries to vote against relicensing glyphosate in November of 2017, and in early 2018, the country signed a letter to the EU Commission calling for "an exit plan for glyphosate..."

Malta: Malta began the process of instituting countrywide ban of glyphosate. However, Environment Minister José Herrera backtracked in January of 2017, saying the country would continue to oppose glyphosate in discussions but would fall in line with the European Union and wait for further studies. In November of 2017, Malta was one of nine EU countries to vote against relicensing glyphosate. The country also signed a letter to the EU Commission in 2018 calling for "an exit plan for glyphosate..."

Netherlands: Banned all non-commercial use of glyphosate.

New Zealand: The cities of Auckland and Christchurch passed resolutions to reduce the usage of chemicals for weed and pest control in public places. The Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility, a New Zealand charitable trust, called for a glyphosate ban in 2015.

Portugal: Prohibits the use of glyphosate in all public spaces. President of the Portuguese Medical Association has also called for a worldwide ban of glyphosate.

Scotland: Aberdeen cut back its use of herbicides and Edinburgh's City Council voted to phase out glyphosate. In November of 2017, five of Scotland's six EU parliamentarians voted in favor of a motion that would phase out glyphosate by 2022.

Slovenia: Slovenia was one of six EU member states to sign a 2018 letter to the European Commission citing "concerns" about the risks associated with glyphosate. The letter called upon the Commission to introduce "an exit plan for glyphosate..."

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Spain: According to Kistiñe Garcia of the Spanish NGO, Ecologistas en Acción, Barcelona, Madrid, Zaragoza and the region of Extremadura have decided to ban glyphosate. The regions of La Rioja (major Spanish wine region) and Aragon have also approved motions against endocrine disrupting chemicals, which includes glyphosate.

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka was the first country to issue a nationwide ban on glyphosate. However, in 2018, the government decided to lift the ban due to crop losses and overgrowing weeds.

Sweden: Raised concerns about glyphosate safety and has pushed against relicensing the herbicide in the EU. In 2017, the Swedish Chemicals Agency (SCA) announced it was planning to tighten rules on private use of plant protection products. Under the plan, private users would only be allowed to use products containing “low-risk substances.” According to the SCA, glyphosate is an example of an active substance not expected to be included among low-risk substances, meaning in due time, private consumers may not be permitted to use herbicides containing glyphosate.

Switzerland: Concerned about public wellbeing, the Swiss supermarket chains Migros and Coop removed glyphosate-based products from their shelves due to health risks. In 2017, the Green party put forth a plan to ban glyphosate in Switzerland. The proposed plan was rejected by the Federal Council, Switzerland’s executive.

farmer-in-field-imag

Why is Glyphosate Banned?

Most of the glyphosate restrictions or bans throughout the world were introduced following the 2015 IARC report on glyphosate. The IARC report concluded that glyphosate is a “probable human carcinogen.”

According to the report, the cancers most associated with glyphosate exposure were found to be non-Hodgkin lymphoma and other hematopoietic cancers. The report further concluded that glyphosate exposure caused DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells, as well as genotoxic, hormonal and enzymatic effects in mammals.

Other glyphosate studies have linked the chemical to a number of health issues, including, but not limited to ADHD, Alzheimer’s Disease, Autism, Birth Defects, various forms of cancer, Celiac Disease, Colitis, Heart Disease, Inflammatory Bowel Syndrome, Kidney Disease, Liver Disease, and Parkinson’s Disease.

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Is Glyphosate Banned in Europe?

As you can see above, some individual countries have introduced legislation to ban or restrict private sales of glyphosate, or restrictions on spraying glyphosate in public spaces. As for the whole of the European Union (EU), glyphosate is not currently banned.

However, EU public opinion is leaning in favor of a glyphosate ban. In a 2016 poll of the five largest EU countries, over 66 percent of respondents said they favored a glyphosate ban. Over 1.3 million people signed a petition in 2017 calling for a European ban of glyphosate. That public pressure caught the attention numerous Members of European Parliament, who have cited the petition as the foundation for instituting an EU ban.

In November of 2017, EU member states narrowly voted to relicense glyphosate for a period of five years. The vote was not without controversy; German Agriculture Minister Christian Schmidt (CSU) entered a 'yes' vote for his country without consulting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) on the matter. His unilateral vote disregarded Germany's Environment Minister, who had instructed Schmidt to abstain from voting. With Germany's vote, the measure narrowly passed and glyphosate received a new license.

Following the scandal, six EU countries sent a letter to the European Commission, calling for an exit plan for glyphosate. France and Italy have stated they will carry out glyphosate bans by 2020, and Germany announced in 2018 that it will also issue a glyphosate ban.

Is Glyphosate Banned in the United States?

Despite the IARC report's 2015 conclusion that glyphosate is a probable human carcinogen, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans. As such, glyphosate is not banned by the U.S. government; Roundup and other glyphosate-based herbicides are readily available for purchase throughout the country.

However, not everyone agrees with the EPA's conclusion on glyphosate. A number of cities, counties and even one U.S. state have issued bans, restrictions or warnings on glyphosate as a result of the ongoing health concerns.

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Is Glyphosate Banned in California?

California has not issued a statewide ban on glyphosate. However, on July 7, 2017, California became the first state in the nation to issue a warning on glyphosate by adding the chemical to the state's Proposition 65 list of chemicals and substances known to cause cancer.

California's decision to warn consumers about glyphosate was pursuant to the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, better known as California Proposition 65, a ballot initiative approved by voters in 1986 to address toxic chemical exposure concerns. Prop 65 requires California to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

u.s. glyphosate bans or restrictions

U.S. Cities to Restrict or Ban Glyphosate

California

Arcata, California – Initiated a pesticide reduction plan that urges pesticides to only be used as a last resort.

Belvedere, California – Passed municipal ordinance initiating Integrated Pest Management program that restricts toxic pesticide use and urges pesticide use as last resort.

Benicia, California – City decided to go glyphosate-free following the verdict in Johnson v. Monsanto Co.

Berkeley, California – Implemented pest management program to minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides.

Burbank, California – City Council members voted to discontinue the use of Roundup in city parks for one year, and Burbank Unified School District will no longer use the herbicide due to cancer concerns.

Carlsbad, California – The City Council voted unanimously to adopt a policy that makes organic pesticides the preferred method for killing weeds. "Asked to choose between aesthetics

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and public health...I'm going to choose public health every time," said Councilwoman Cori Schumacher.

Corte Madera, California – Passed ordinance calling for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program restricting highly toxic pesticides, while also urging for pesticide use to be a last resort.

Davis, California – Passed ordinance implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program designed to reduce the use of pesticides. Some city parks do not allow the use of glyphosate.

Encinitas, California – Banned the use of Roundup and other glyphosate-based weed killers in city parks.

Fairfax, California – Passed municipal ordinance restricting use of toxic pesticides on public property in favor of alternative methods.

Irvine, California – City Council passed resolution to cease spraying Roundup and other chemicals on public parks, streets and playgrounds.

Long Beach, California –Citing the landmark \$289 million verdict in Johnson v. Monsanto Co., Long Beach Parks & Recreation Director Gerardo Mouet announced an immediate halt on the spraying of Roundup in Long Beach Parks.

Mill Valley, California – Passed ordinance initiating Integrated Pest Management program that restricts toxic pesticide use and urges pesticide use as last resort.

Novato, California – Following the \$289 million Monsanto verdict, Novato Mayor Josh Fryday said the city will no longer use Roundup weed killer.

Oakland, California – Passed ordinance initiating Integrated Pest Management program that restricts toxic pesticide use and promotes pesticide use as last resort. On Sept. 1, 2018, the city formally halted the use of Roundup. Alameda County is reviewing its chemical spraying practices.

Palo Alto, California – Pest management program calls for Integrated Pest Management that restricts pesticide use in favor of less harmful methods.

Petaluma, California – City officials are considering a ban on glyphosate for use in public parks.

Richmond, California – Issued an ordinance to ban the use of glyphosate for all weed abatement activities conducted by the city.

San Anselmo, California – Passed city resolution promoting an Integrated Pest Management program restricting the use of toxic pesticides. The program only allows pesticide use as a last resort.

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San Francisco, California – Restricts the use of toxic pesticides on public property in favor of alternative, organic methods.

Santa Rosa, California – Banned the use of Roundup at city parks.

Thousand Oaks, California – City instituted a ban on glyphosate use on public golf courses.

Woodland, California – Woodland Joint Unified School District suspended the use of Roundup on school campuses.

Colorado

Boulder, Colorado – Banned Roundup for use on city parks.

Durango, Colorado – Instituted an Organically Managed Lands program to minimize the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

Connecticut

A growing number of Connecticut towns, including Branford, Cheshire, Granby, Essex, Greenwich, Manchester, Plainville, Roxbury, Watertown, and Woodbridge have adopted bans or restrictions on glyphosate use. The state also has Public Act 09-56 to eliminate the use pesticides in K-8 schools.

Florida

North Miami, Florida – City Council approved a plan calling for the gradual reduction of pesticide use on city property and a study on alternative pesticides.

Stuart, Florida – City commissioners voted to ban glyphosate, calling for an integrated pest control plan that reduces the use of glyphosate with the ultimate goal of eliminating chemicals.

Illinois

Chicago, Illinois – The city stopped spraying glyphosate in public spaces.

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Evanston, Illinois – Evanston decided to go pesticide-free in 2010. Glyphosate is banned from use on city property, parks and schools.

Franklin Park, Illinois – Passed resolution promoting an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy that restricts highly toxic pesticides and urges for pesticides to be considered as a last resort.

Iowa

Dubuque, Iowa – City instituted a ban on glyphosate use in public parks.

Kansas

Lawrence, Kansas – Implemented Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program designed to reduce pesticide use.

Wichita, Kansas – Initiated pilot program that limits or eliminates pesticide use.

Maryland

Greenbelt, Maryland – Adopted Sustainable Land Care policy for public lands calling for limited use of pesticides.

Hyattsville, Maryland – Passed ordinance prohibiting the use of toxic pesticides on public property in favor of alternative, organic methods

Montgomery County, Maryland – County Council voted to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides on private lawns.

Takoma Park, Maryland – Placed restriction on cosmetic pesticides for lawn care on public and private property.

Maine

Dozens of cities and townships in Maine have adopted local ordinances restricting or banning pesticides and herbicides.

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South Portland, Maine – Passed a pesticide plan that discourages property owners from using certain pesticides and herbicides.

Massachusetts

Eastham, Massachusetts – Local ordinance requires town employees to receive a permit for use of registered pesticides and prohibits the use of highly-toxic pesticides.

Marblehead, Massachusetts – Created Organic Pest Management program to phase out pesticides and herbicides.

Warwick, Massachusetts – A measure to ban Monsanto's Roundup passed at a Special Town Meeting. The ban does not allow people to spray glyphosate on any land within the town.

Wellesley, Massachusetts – Wellesley banned all pesticides in 2011. Glyphosate is restricted from being sprayed on athletic fields and any city-owned property. The chemical can be used in limited emergency weed control situations.

Minnesota

Minneapolis, Minnesota – Commissioners of the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board decided to eliminate all glyphosate-based products from being used in neighborhood parks. In October of 2018, the Park Board's Operations & Environment Committee voted to extend the glyphosate ban to the entire Minneapolis park system.

Nevada

Reno, Nevada – The city initiated a pesticide free pilot program.

New Hampshire

Dover, New Hampshire – Passed resolution calling for Organic Land Management. City utilizes least toxic compounds only when necessary.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire – Passed resolution eliminating the use of toxic pesticides on public property in favor of alternative, organic methods.

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New Mexico

Taos County, New Mexico – Taos County Commissioners are considering the possibility of banning all pesticides, including glyphosate.

New Jersey

New Jersey has State and local ordinances encouraging Integrated Pest Management programs to eliminate or drastically reduce the use of pesticides. At least 15 city school districts and over a dozen other parks and recreation departments in the state have enacted IPM programs.

New York

New York's Park and Recreation Department has measures to eliminate or reduce pesticide and herbicide use in areas under its control.

New Paltz, New York – The use of toxic pesticides and herbicides by city employees or by private contractors is forbidden on all city-owned lands.

Rockland County, New York – Created a Non-Toxic Pesticide program, mandating the use of natural, non-toxic, or as a last resort with prior approval, the least toxic pesticide use.

Westchester County, New York – Enacted a law for pesticide-free parks.

North Carolina

Carrboro, North Carolina – The city of Carrboro has restricted glyphosate use since 1999. Under the terms of the ban, glyphosate cannot be sprayed in public parks, schools and town buildings or properties. The city will only allow glyphosate to be sprayed under limited circumstances.

Ohio

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Cuyahoga County, Ohio – Local ordinance prohibits the use of pesticides on county-owned land, and established the adoption of an Integrated Pest Management program for county-owned properties.

South Euclid, Ohio – Passed ordinance prohibiting toxic pesticides on public grounds in favor of alternative, organic pest control methods unless permitted by an Environmental Review Board.

Oregon

Portland, Oregon – Since 1988, Portland has restricted the use of Roundup to emergency use only. Glyphosate is banned on all city-owned property.

Texas

Austin, Texas – City Council voted to prohibit the spraying of glyphosate on city lands.

Virginia

Charlottesville, Virginia – Restricts the use of glyphosate on any city-owned parks, schools, or buildings. Glyphosate can only be sprayed under limited circumstances.

Washington

King County, Washington – Passed municipal ordinance initiating an Integrative Pest Management (IPM) program to determine if and how pesticides should be used.

Olympia, Washington – City passed a resolution to encourage the implementation of an Integrative Pest Management (IPM) program for non-chemical pest control.

Thurston County, Washington – Passed municipal ordinance to restrict the use of toxic pesticides on public property.