

Poison Parks

Monsanto is the controversial corporation behind many of the pesticides and genetically engineered seeds in the world. The company has a long controversial history; it produced Agent Orange for the U.S. military during the Vietnam War, which continues to cause birth defects to this day. Currently, Monsanto produces the world's top-selling herbicide, RoundUp, and sells \$1 billion worth every three months. It's used in a wide variety of agricultural settings, but is also used in many nonagricultural settings, such as in parks, on residential lawns, and along highways and roadsides. The primary active ingredient in RoundUp is glyphosate. Glyphosate is what's known as a "non-selective herbicide," which means that it does not discriminate between good plants and bad plants. According to a Health Department report, RoundUp was used in New York City public parks 1,365 times in 2013, a 22 percent increase from the previous year. The EPA is required to periodically review pesticides that have already been registered, to take into consideration new science and changing conditions; however, last time EPA completed a review of glyphosate's registration was back in 1993.

HEALTH RISKS

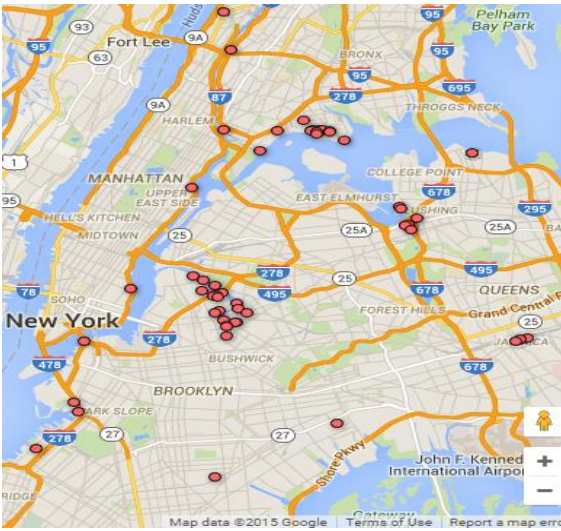
- Humans can be exposed to glyphosate through various pathways, as glyphosate has been detected in the air during spraying, in water, and in food.
- In March 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a branch of the World Health Organization (WHO) that is considered to be the world's leading authority on cancer, classified glyphosate as a "probable human carcinogen."
- IARC indicated that it can cause non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and lung cancer in humans; other cancers in animals; and induce DNA and chromosomal damage in mammals and in human and animal cell studies.
- Other studies have linked glyphosate exposure to increased rates of birth defects, and a study published in April 2015 tied glyphosate to the growing issue of antibiotic resistance.
- Exposure to RoundUp has been determined to trigger as well as cause asthma attacks.
- Developing immune systems along with behaviors of young children, such as putting things in their mouths and crawling on the ground, put them at increased health risks from pesticide exposure.

Glyphosate is currently banned in:

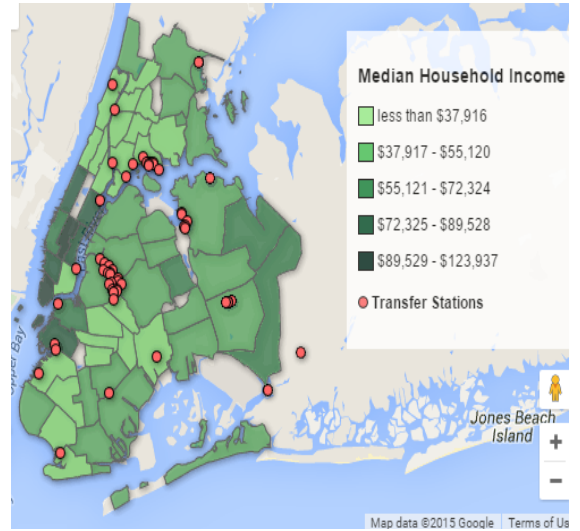
- Austria
- France
- Greece
- Hungary
- Poland
- Germany
- Ireland
- The Netherlands
- Bermuda
- Lithuania
- Russia
- Scotland
- Sri Lanka
- Boulder, Colorado, USA
- Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- Takoma Park, Maryland, USA
- Richmond, California, USA
- Chicago, Illinois, USA

DISPARATE IMPACT

- People of color and those from low-income backgrounds are doubly exposed to the dangers of pesticides, because of direct exposure in the parks, in addition to living in areas with a significantly greater proximity to the pollution caused by toxic waste disposal.
 - The waste from these pesticides are collected with trucks that use high-polluting diesel fuel and dumped in New York City's over-burdened neighborhoods predominately inhabited by people of color.
- Brooklyn, where the population contains a high percentage of people of color, is the most heavily pesticided and herbicided county in the entire state.
- Title VI provisions in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, acknowledges that "racial and ethnic minorities and poor children may be exposed to more pollution."
- From cradle to grave, African Americans have the worst statistics in almost every area of health.
 - The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease reported that African Americans are 4 to 6 times more likely than whites to die from asthma.
 - The use of RoundUp contributes to the cycle of poverty, as asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic illness.
- When considering who is most affected by this toxic pesticide, workers are always at highest risk because they have heavy, day-to-day exposures.
 - The 2013 New York City Government Workforce Profile conveyed that 44% of service maintenance employees were black, 26% Hispanic, and 28% white, demonstrating how people of color face higher risks to this toxic pesticide.



Locations of waste transfer stations in New York City. It becomes clear that there are specific neighborhoods dealing with the brunt of waste from the city.



Median household income levels in accordance to waste transfer stations. East Williamsburg and the South Bronx are two low-income neighborhoods that are disproportionately impacted by a high concentration of waste transfer stations.

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

- There is strong scientific consensus that the primary cause of monarch decline in recent years has been the widespread use of herbicides—especially those containing the chemical glyphosate.
- During the same period that glyphosate use increased ten-fold, the monarch population decline by over 90%
- Glyphosate kills milkweed, which is the only food source for monarch caterpillars.
- The skyrocketing levels of glyphosate has decimated native milkweed populations across the United States and contributed to the loss of over 150 million acres of habitat for monarchs since 1996.

HONEYBEES

- One of every three bites of food we eat is from a crop pollinated by honeybees.
- The National Agriculture Statistics Service has reported a drop in numbers from more than 5 million to less than 2.5 million honeybees.
- A new study shows that glyphosate can disrupt learning behaviors in honeybees and severely impair long-term colony performance.