GMB

Toxics Use Reduction: Glyphosate

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What is glyphosate?

- Glyphosate is the key ingredient in a powerful herbicide (weedkiller)
 most commonly known as Roundup, but also known as Accord, Rodeo,
 Touchdown and Rosate.
- Developed by the manufacturer Monsanto in the early 1970s, it has been on the market since 1973 and is the most commonly used weedkiller in the world.
- Glyphosate can be found in many industrial and domestic weedkilling products.
- In March 2015, The World Health Organisation's International Agency on Research into Carcinogens (IARC) announced that glyphosate probably caused a cancer called Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL).
- This was based on a study of agricultural workers in Sweden, Canada and the USA who were exposed to the chemical, although it was backed up by tests on animals.



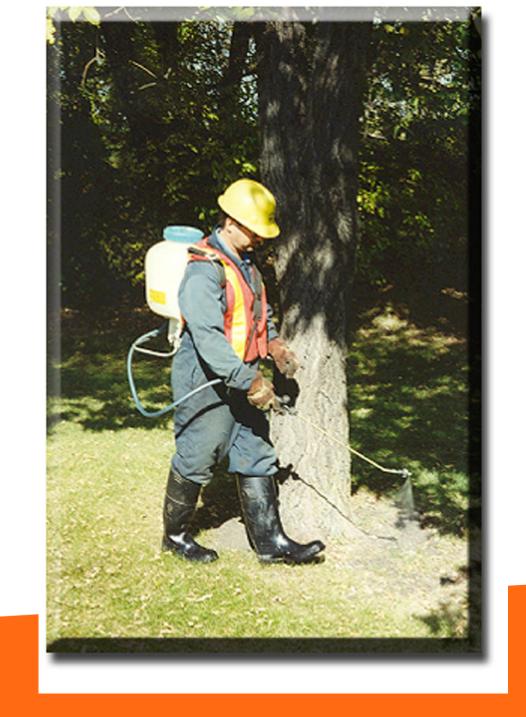
What are the health hazards?

- Outside of NHL, the major health risk identified was until recently concern over stomach bacteria, damaging the gut microbiome.
 - There are potential links to coeliac disease and IBS
- If swallowed it may cause corrosion of the throat and can lead to kidney or liver failure.
- Recent research has identified glyphosate as a possible cause of thyroid disease
- It has also been identified as a potential endocrine disruptor.
- It can also cause discomfort if it is breathed in.
- Exposure to the eyes can result in conjunctivitis.



Why are GMB involved?

- GMB members work in many outdoor industries, and we represent Park workers, groundskeepers, and arboricultural workers
- A motion to our 2016 Congress commanded us to campaign on eliminating exposures to work-related carcinogens
- The IARC report gave us the evidence needed to challenge glyphosate use



What did GMB do?

- We developed new guidance for members on glyphosate
- We used our network of MPs, and crucially local councillors, to raise awareness of the issue at Local Authority level
- This campaigning saw both challenges and grievances in the workplace, and motions tabled for debate by Councils.





What are the alternatives?

- Hot foam systems / hot water systems
- Hand weeding is an option particularly for smaller areas such as playgrounds and on paths running through parks.
- Acetic acid dilutions have been used very effectively to control weeds on hard surfaces in a variety of situations.
- Manual approaches are available in the form of differing types of mulching.
- Flame treatment has been used successfully to eliminate weeds.
- Steel brushing can be used for large scale areas such as pavements and roads.
- High pressure hot water treatments can be particularly effective

Adapted from an original list from the Pesticides Action Network UK



What was the impact?

- 1. Glastonbury, Somerset
- 2. Erewash, Derbyshire
- 3. Wadebridge, North Cornwall 16. Greater London Authority
- 4. Hammersmith and Fulham, London
- 5. Lewes District, East Sussex
- 6. Cowes, Isle of Wight
- 7. Brighton and Hove, East Sussex
- 8. Frensham, Surrey
- 9. Peterlee, Durham
- 10.Shaftesbury, Dorest
- 11.Trafford, Manchester
- 12.Cambridge, Cambridgeshire –
- 13. Midlothian, Scotland

- 14. Highland, Scotland
- 15.Lyme Regis, Dorset
- 17.Frome, Somerset
- 18.Chichester, West Sussex
- 19.Colchester, Essex
- 20. Derry, Londonderry
- 21. Folkestone & Hythe, Kent
- 22.Shetland, Scotland
- 23. Petersfield, Hampshire
- 24.Lambeth, London
- 25.Faversham, Kent
- 26.Hexham, Northumberland
- 27. Hadleigh, Suffolk
- 28.Balerno, Edinburgh
- 29. Wirral, Liverpool

- 30. Waverley, Surrey
- 31. Hackney, London
- 32.Sunderland, Tyne and Wear
- 33. Warminster, Wiltshire
- 34. Manningtree, Tendring, Essex
- 35.Bilbrook, South Staffordshire
- 36.Reading, Berkshire
- 37.Bath and North East Somerset
- 38. Renfrewshire, Scotland
- 39. Guildford, Surrey
- 40.Chelmsford, Essex

Source: https://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free-townssuccess-stories/



For more information:

- GMB Guide: https://www.gmb.org.uk/sites/default/files/HS_Glyphosate.pdf
- TUC Report: https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/glyphosate
- Hazards Magazine on Chemical Regulation and Glyphosate: https://www.hazards.org/chemicals/sheepish.htm
- Pesticide Action Network UK: https://www.pan-uk.org/
- US Right To Know: https://usrtk.org/pesticides/glyphosate-health-concerns/
- Detox Project: https://detoxproject.org/

