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The City of Eugene establishes a moratorium on the use of glyphosate

Beyond Toxics's Non Toxic Oregon program supports a transition to organic land care

Eugene, ORE. – In June 2019, the City of Eugene decided to place a moratorium on the use of Roundup in order to protect public health. This is good news because the evidence of the herbicide being a probable human carcinogen is strong and the absence of protective federal regulations makes the need to act locally more important. Retreating from Roundup is happening at the local level in cities and counties in the U.S. through policies and best practices guides.

“For now, the City of Eugene has a moratorium on the use of glyphosate with no end date” said Chris Girard, Parks Operations Manager for the City of Eugene. “It’s part of our Integrated Pest Management plan, which is posted on the City’s web site.”

“Stopping the use of Roundup is a precautionary step that local governments can take in the absence of leadership at the EPA,” said Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics, a statewide environmental justice organization.

“Eugene can show it is prioritizing children’s health over the misleading science and slick marketing campaigns from Monsanto and Bayer Chemical.”

The decision by the City of Eugene is an extension of an already well developed Integrated Pest Management program that seeks to reduce or eliminate pesticide use. In recent discussions with city staff and leadership, Beyond Toxics’ groundbreaking program, **Non Toxic Oregon**, has been instrumental in encouraging the Eugene’s Parks and Open Space Division and Springfield’s Willamalane Park and Recreation District to look at their land care policies. Last year Beyond Toxics launched the project, **Non Toxic Oregon**, a program that supports cities and schools in their effort to adopt organic land care practices. Three Oregon cities – Springfield, Eugene, and Talent – are working with Beyond Toxics to transition park land to organic land management systems. City and school staff in charge of maintaining parks, playgrounds and sports fields will have the opportunity to train with two nationally recognized leaders in organic landscaping and food systems. Chip Osborne, principal of Osborne Organics and Jay Feldman, Executive Director of Beyond Pesticides, national environmental advocacy organization will be featured speakers.

Glyphosate side effects

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, has featured prominently in the news due to a 2015 finding that it is a "probable carcinogen" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Recently, scientists have been able to correlate a number of *other* health issues related to glyphosate exposure including, but not limited to: Alzheimer’s Disease, autism, birth defects, heart disease, kidney disease and Parkinson’s Disease.

The movement to protect people from glyphosate is international

From Argentina to India to Vietnam, 29 nations have taken steps to restrict or ban the use of glyphosate. In addition, 94 cities and counties in the U.S. (in addition to the states of New Jersey, Hawaii, and Vermont) have, via some governmental action, addressed concerns about the link between cancer and the use of and exposure to glyphosate. Now Eugene, Oregon has joined the list.

Read the details of the City of Eugene's Substantive Updates Made to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy and Operations Manual: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/46915/Updates-to-IPM-Manual-from-2009-to-June2019-FINAL?bidId=>

Read more about the Non Toxic Oregon project: <https://www.beyondtoxics.org/work/non-toxic-oregon/>

Beyond Toxics promotes environmental justice engagement and community-based environmental grassroots organizing to ensure environmental protection and health for all communities.