

Environmental Effects of 30 Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides

	Health Effects					
	Detected in Groundwater	Potential Leacher	Toxic to Birds	Toxic to Fish/Aquatic Organisms	Toxic to Bees	Toxic to Mammals
Herbicides						
2,4-D*	X ^{1,2,3,4,7}	X ^{3,4}	X ^{1,2,3,11}	X ^{1,2,3,11}	X ^{1,11}	X ^{3,4,12}
Benfluralin	X ⁷		X ^{3,11}	X ^{3,11}	X ^{5,11}	
Clopyralid	X ^{2,7}	X ^{2,11}	X ¹¹	X ¹¹	X ¹¹	
Dicamba	X ^{2,7}	X ^{1,2,3}	X ^{10,11}	X ^{1,2,3,11}	X ^{5,10,11}	
Diquat Dibromide		X ⁵	X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{5,11}	X ¹
Dithiopyr				X ^{5,6,11}	X ^{5,11}	
Fluazipop-p-butyl				X ^{1,4,6,11}	X ^{1,4}	
Glyphosate*	X ⁸	X ⁵	X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{1,2,11}	X ¹¹	X ⁴
Imazapyr	X ²	X ^{2,3}		X ^{2,5,11}	X ^{5,11}	
Isoxaben		X ¹¹	X ¹¹	X ^{3,11}	X ¹¹	
MCPA	X ^{4,7}	X ^{1,4,11}	X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{1,3,11}	X ⁵	X ³
Mecoprop (MCPP)*	X ⁴	X ^{1,2,3,11}	X ^{3,11}	X ²	X ¹¹	X ³
Pelargonic Acid*			X ^{3 §}	X ^{3 §}	X ⁵	
Pendimethalin*	X ^{3,7}		X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{5,11}	X ³
Triclopyr	X ^{2,7}	X ^{1,2,3,11}	X ^{2,3,11}	X ^{2,3,11}	X ^{5,11}	
Trifluralin*	X ^{4,7}			X ^{3,11}	X ^{5,11,12}	
Insecticides						
Acephate		X ¹	X ^{1,3,10,11}	X ^{3,11}	X ^{1,3,10,11}	X ³
Bifenthrin*†			X ^{1,10,11}	X ^{1,10,11}	X ^{1,10,11}	X ^{1,4}
Carbaryl	X ^{1,3,7}	X ¹¹	X ^{2,11}	X ^{1,2,3,11}	X ^{1,2,3,11}	X ^{3,11}
Fipronil	X ⁷	X ^{5,11}	X ^{2,4,10,11}	X ^{2,4,10,11}	X ^{2,4,10,11}	X ⁴
Imidacloprid ‡	X ⁷	X ^{1,2,10,11}	X ^{1,2,11}	X ^{1,2,11}	X ^{1,2,10,11}	
Malathion*	X ^{1,2,3,7}	X ^{1,3,5}	X ^{1,2,3,10,11}	X ^{1,2,3,10,11}	X ^{1,3,10,11}	X ³
Permethrin*†	X ^{2,7}			X ^{1,2,3,11}	X ^{1,2,3,11}	
Trichlorfon		X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{1,11}	X ⁴
Fungicides						
Azoxystrobin	X ⁹	X ^{3,4,11}	X ¹¹	X ^{3,11}	X ¹¹	
Myclobutanil	X ⁷			X ⁵		
Propiconazole	X ⁷	X ³		X ^{3,11}	X ^{5,11}	X ¹¹
Sulfur		X ¹	X ¹¹	X ¹¹	X ¹¹	
Thiophanate methyl		X ³		X ^{3,11}	X ¹¹	
Ziram		X ^{3,4}	X ^{1,3,11}	X ^{1,3,11}	X ¹¹	X ³
Totals:	19	20	22	30	29	14

*These pesticides are among the top 10 most heavily used pesticides in the home and garden sector from 2006-2007, according to the latest sales and usage data available from EPA (2011), available at http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/pestsales/07pestsales/market_estimates2007.pdf.

† EPA lists all synthetic pyrethroids under the same category. While all synthetic pyrethroids have similar toxicological profiles, some may be more or less toxic in certain categories than others. See Beyond Pesticides' synthetic pyrethroid fact sheet at bit.ly/TLBuP8 for additional information.

‡ Imidacloprid is a systemic insecticide in the neonicotinoid chemical class, which is linked to bee decline.

§ Based on soap salts.

|| Based on in-vitro mammalian cell study.

Description

Most toxicity determinations based on interpretations and conclusions of studies by university, government, or organization databases. Empty cells may refer to either insufficient data or if the chemical is considered relatively non-toxic based on currently available data. The column labeled “Potential to Leach” refers to a chemical’s potential to move into deeper soil layers and eventually into groundwater. The column labeled “Toxic to Mammals” refers to conclusions based on evidence from studies done on non-human mammals.

The list of 30 commonly used lawn chemicals is based on information provided by the General Accounting Office 1990 Report, “Lawn Care Pesticides: Risks Remain Uncertain While Prohibited Safety Claims Continue,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pesticide Survey (1990), Farm Chemicals Handbook (1989), The National Home and Garden Pesticide Use Survey by Research Triangle Institute, NC (1992), multiple state reports, current EPA Environmental Impact Statements, and Risk Assessments, EPA national sales and usage data, best-selling products at Lowe’s and Home Depot, and Beyond Pesticides’ information requests.

For more information on hazards associated with pesticides, please see Beyond Pesticides’ *Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management* at www.beyondpesticides.org/gateway. For questions and other inquiries, please contact our office at 202-543-5450, email info@beyondpesticides.org or visit us on the web at www.beyondpesticides.org.

Citations

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12. U.S. Forest Service. Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment. Available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticide/risk.shtml>.