

## Part Seven: Recommendations



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### 1. Recommendations for the Federal Government

- The EPA should deny licenses for pesticides that have proven to be persistent, mobile, and hazardous to human health and other non-target species. When the government fails to do this, it leads to pesticide residue mixtures being detected far beyond their originally intended targets.
- The EPA needs to set pesticide residue limits that are backed by monitoring and vigorous enforcement policies and action.
- The EPA needs to test for the toxicity of pesticide combinations. Their failure to do so has created the potential for human exposure to hundreds of thousands of chemical mixtures that people are exposed to every day.
- The EPA needs to release testing information about potentially harmful compounds listed as inert ingredients in pesticides.

# PESTICIDE RISKS: FROM OUR FARMS TO OUR HOMES

- The EPA needs to test whether pesticides interfere with the development of fetal, infant, or children's nervous system.
- The EPA needs to demand independent and complete testing prior to a pesticide's approval when evidence of significant risk to human health is questioned.
- The EPA relies on the labeling of pesticide packaging as its way to protect human health. Therefore, the labeling on pesticide packaging should be in type no smaller than 16 point.
- The EPA should require that pesticide package labeling be in English and in Spanish, as many applicators are Spanish-speaking.
- Pesticide package labeling should include chronic health effects, such as cancer and neurotoxicity—not just the acute health effects, as are now listed on the label.
- Pesticide labels should list the inert ingredients and their health effects as well as what pesticides are included in the package.
- Lawn-care pesticides sold to the public should be required to be in packaging that prevents pesticide vapors from escaping. Stores that carry these products are filled with the out-gassing from these pesticide products.
- When lawn-care products are advertised, health risks to people should be required to be listed, just as they are required for drug advertising.
- The federal government should ban all uses of chlorpyrifos.
- Glyphosate should be put on a pesticide restricted list.
- Pesticide risk assessments are extremely technical, so simpler criteria should be adopted to judge chemical safety so that the public can influence decisions about a pesticide's safety.



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- Federal subsidies should be given to support the organic sector due to its proven potential and protective effect on humans and ecosystems.
- Perhaps it is time for a complete replacement of the current legal structure for regulating pesticides.

## 2. Recommendations for the State Government

- States should enact a pesticide registry that allows neighbors to be alerted 24 hours before their neighbors' properties are sprayed with pesticides.
- States should amend their pesticide laws so that local governments can have stricter laws than the state government.
- States should enact laws that ban pesticides on school grounds and on elementary and middle school playing fields.
- Pesticides should be disposed of as hazardous waste, not as household waste.
- States should ban the use of chlorpyrifos for all uses.
- States should put glyphosate on a pesticide restricted list.
- States should enact neonicotinoid pesticide restrictions to protect their bee populations.
- Lawn-care pesticides should not be sold indoors or near food. Their porous packaging allows pesticide vapors to accumulate indoors.
- Pesticide misters are a new and dangerous product and should be banned by all states to protect children and pets.

## 3. Recommendations for Town Governments

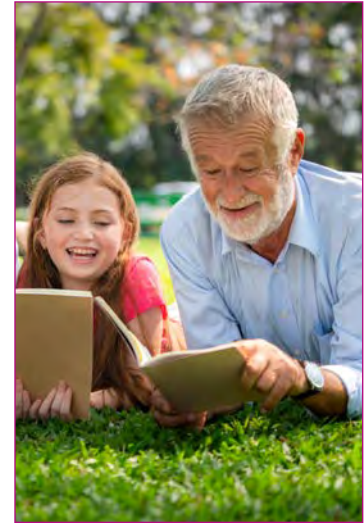
- Towns should use only organic materials on their town property grounds, including libraries, town halls, and parks. This will set an example for the whole town and show that the town is using

sustainable practices. In addition, organic practices in town parks will protect children's health.

- Towns should help educate residents about reducing their uses of lawn-care pesticides for cosmetic reasons, especially those who live on land with private drinking water wells.
- Towns should lobby their state legislatures to enact laws that will allow the towns to have stricter pesticide regulations than the state has. This is even more important if the towns have critical aquifers to protect against pesticide uses.
- On their website, towns should put information about good and healthy lawn-care practices. It should include how to protect residents' private wells from pesticide contamination. Local health departments should post the same information on their websites.

### 3. Recommendations for Individuals

- If you are pregnant, avoid using pesticides—many of them have birth and reproductive health effects.
- Use organic lawn care practices on your property. This will protect your children, your pets, and yourself.
- Indoor pesticide use causes far more toxic exposures than outdoor use, so you should use as little pesticide use as possible indoors.
- Do not put indoor pesticide spraying on an automatic schedule—only use pesticides when absolutely necessary.
- Ant cups and similar cups for insect infestations are preferable to spraying pesticides.
- If you have pesticides in your home, make sure they are stored securely and safely, away from pets and children.
- If your state does not have a pesticide registry for you to learn when your neighbors are going to have their properties sprayed with pesticides, lobby your state to enact legislation to alert you.



*Use organic lawn care practices on your property. This will protect your children, your pets, and yourself.*