



February 8, 2021

Craig Menear  
Home Depot  
2455 Paces Ferry Rd SE  
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Mr. Menear,

On behalf of the 104 organizations below and our over 7.5 million members nationwide, we are writing to urge Home Depot to signal its continued dedication to protecting the health of people, pollinators and the planet by removing all products containing glyphosate from store shelves and online sales and by increasing offerings of organic and other safer alternatives. One of Home Depot's competitors, Costco, has already taken these steps by discontinuing products containing glyphosate from all store locations worldwide.<sup>1</sup> B&Q, one of the largest home improvement stores in the United Kingdom, announced a similar policy in May.<sup>2</sup>

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in the herbicide Roundup®, was determined to be a probable human carcinogen by the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer and the California Office of Health Hazard Assessment.<sup>3,4</sup>

In a series of high profile court cases, glyphosate exposure has been linked to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in farmers, groundskeepers, and homeowners using the herbicide for lawn care.<sup>5</sup> Juries in three lawsuits so far decided in favor of the plaintiffs, and in June, Bayer agreed to pay over \$10 billion to settle approximately 95,000 additional cases.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to cancer, exposure to glyphosate and the herbicide formulations it's found in has been associated with endocrine disruption, DNA damage, shortened pregnancy, reproductive harm, disruption of the gut microbiome, kidney toxicity, and fatty liver disease.<sup>7,8,9,10,11,12,13</sup>

In the environment, glyphosate is a primary driver of the decimation of Monarch butterfly populations and has also been linked to bee declines. The use of glyphosate is devastating Monarch butterfly populations by destroying the milkweed plants their young depend on.<sup>14,15</sup> Monarch populations have declined by 90 percent in the past two decades.<sup>16</sup> Recent research has also shown that glyphosate can disrupt honeybee gut microbiomes, affect larval development, increase colony vulnerability to pathogen infestation, reduce productivity, and impair honeybee navigation, linking the herbicide to declines in bee populations.<sup>17,18,19,20</sup> In addition, overuse of glyphosate has led to resistant "superweeds" on more than 60 million acres of U.S. farmland, with a resulting increase in toxic herbicides 2,4-D and dicamba.<sup>21</sup>

Home and garden stores can make a significant difference in reducing the use of this toxic product. Research shows that homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops.<sup>22</sup>



**Because Home Depot is a top company dedicated to meeting growing consumer demand for environmentally friendly garden products, we urge Home Depot to:**

- Establish a time-bound commitment to eliminate all products containing glyphosate from stores and online sales;
- Increase offerings of organic approved products and other safer alternatives (see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of active<sup>23</sup> and inert<sup>24</sup> ingredients approved as minimum risk pesticides);
- Inventory and assess the toxicity of all pesticide products on offer with the aim of ensuring that eliminating glyphosate sales do not lead to increased sales of products with equal or greater toxicity (e.g. formulations with 2,4-D, dicamba, atrazine, etc.), and consequently set goals to decrease overall sales of toxic pesticide products; and
- Publicize progress toward these commitments to demonstrate that it has taken steps to protect pollinators and human health and will continue to do so.

**These actions will build on Home Depot's leadership on pesticides.** We applaud Home Depot for its efforts to eliminate use of neonicotinoids from its live plant offerings.

Along with phasing out sales of glyphosate, **we urge Home Depot to ensure that its efforts to eliminate neonicotinoids from plants adequately addresses regrettable substitutes:** newly approved systemic pesticides with chemically similar active ingredients including sulfloxaflor and flupyradifurone<sup>25</sup> as well as all other pesticides of high concern for pollinators.<sup>26</sup> Committing to these actions would demonstrate Home Depot's dedication to sustainability and protecting declining pollinator populations upon which our food supply and healthy ecosystems depend.

Given the widespread harm to human health, pollinators and the environment associated with glyphosate products, the responsible decision is to remove them from store shelves.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Abundance NC  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
All-Creatures.org  
Alliance for Global Justice  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments WEST  
Anacostia Watershed Society  
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.  
Asheville Alternatives to Pesticides  
Because Health



Beyond Pesticides  
Beyond Toxics  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
Californians for Pesticide Reform  
Center for Environmental Health  
Center for Food Safety  
Central Maryland Beekeepers Association  
Common Table Creative  
Community Action Works  
Conservation Congress  
Consumer Reports  
David Suzuki Foundation  
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition  
Eco-Healthy Solutions  
Ecological Farming Association  
Ecology Center  
Environment America  
Epidemic Answers  
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety (FACTS)  
Family Farm Defenders  
Farm Worker Ministry Northwest  
Food & Water Action  
Friends of the Bitterroot  
Friends of the Earth  
Gap Mountain Goats  
Garter Snake Garden  
Global Justice Ecology Project  
GMO Free USA  
GMO-Free Florida  
Good Neighbor Iowa  
Graton Against Synthetic Pesticides  
Green America  
Greenpeace US  
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)  
Heal Food Alliance  
Herbicide-Free Campus  
Humming for Bees



Informed Green Solutions  
Institute for Responsible Technology  
International Center for Technology Assessment  
Kid's Right to Know  
Kiss the Ground  
LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.  
Los Jardines Institute  
Lucky2BeMe  
Mangrove Action Project  
Maryland Pesticide Education Network  
Millions Against Monsanto Toronto  
Mind the Store campaign  
Moms Across America  
Moms Advocating Sustainability.org  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Noah's Notes  
Non Toxic Communities  
Northeast Organic Farming Association - Interstate Council  
Northeast Organic Farming Association - NH  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association, Mass. Chapter (NOFA/Mass)  
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides  
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center  
Organic Consumers Association  
Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association (OSGATA)  
People and Pollinators Action Network  
Pesticide Action Network  
Pollinate Minnesota  
Pollinator Project Rogue Valley  
Protect Sudbury, Inc.  
Raptors Are The Solution  
Real Food Media  
Regeneration Massachusetts  
Right Livelihood College  
Safe Ag Safe Schools



Safe Food Matters  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions  
Sierra Club  
Sonoma Safe Ag Safe Schools (SONOMA SASS)  
Story of Stuff Project  
SumOfUs  
Sustainable Farming Association  
Swiftly Foundation  
The Black Institute  
The Borneo Project  
Toronto Non-GMO Coalition  
Toxic Free NC  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group

---

<sup>1</sup> Costco. Environmental Stewardship and Land Management. Online. <https://www.costco.com/sustainability-environment.html>

<sup>2</sup> Poulter, Sean. 2020. B&Q will stop selling weedkiller Roundup after cancer link discovered in the US. The Daily Mail. May 22. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8349041/B-Q-stop-selling-weedkiller-Roundup-cancer-link-discovered-US.html>

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization. 2016. International Agency for Research on Cancer. Monograph 112-10: Glyphosate. Retrieved from <https://monographs.iarc.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mono112-10.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> California Office of Health Hazard Assessment. 2018. Chemicals Listed Under Proposition 65: Glyphosate. Retrieved from <https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/chemicals/glyphosate>

<sup>5</sup> Baum, Hedlund, Aristei, Goldman. Monsanto Roundup Lawsuit. Online. <https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/>

<sup>6</sup> Cohen, Patricia. 2020. Roundup Maker to Pay \$10 Billion to Settle Cancer Suits. *New York Times*. June 24. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/24/business/roundup-settlement-lawsuits.html>

<sup>7</sup> Gasnier, C. *et al.* 2009. Glyphosate-based herbicides are toxic and endocrine disruptors in human cell lines. *Toxicology*, 262(3), pp.184-191.

<sup>8</sup> Parvez, S., Gerona, R.R, *et al.* 2018. Glyphosate exposure in pregnancy and shortened gestational length: A prospective Indiana birth cohort study. *Environmental Health*, 17(1), p.23.

<sup>9</sup> Woźniak, E., Sicińska, P., *et al.* 2018. The mechanism of DNA damage induced by Roundup 360 PLUS, glyphosate and AMPA in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells-genotoxic risk assesement. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 120, pp.510-522.

<sup>10</sup> Nerozzi, C., Recuero, S., *et al.* 2020. Effects of Roundup and its main component, glyphosate, upon mammalian sperm function and survival. *Scientific Reports*, 10(1), pp.1-9.

<sup>11</sup> Samsel, A. and Seneff, S., 2013. Glyphosate's suppression of cytochrome P450 enzymes and amino acid biosynthesis by the gut microbiome: pathways to modern diseases. *Entropy*, 15(4), pp.1416-1463.

- 
- <sup>12</sup> Jayasumana, C., Gunatilake, S. and Senanayake, P., 2014. Glyphosate, hard water and nephrotoxic metals: are they the culprits behind the epidemic of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology in Sri Lanka?. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 11(2), pp.2125-2147.
- <sup>13</sup> Mesnage, R., Renney, G., *et al.* 2017. Multiomics reveal non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in rats following chronic exposure to an ultra-low dose of Roundup herbicide. *Scientific reports*, 7, p.39328.
- <sup>14</sup> Perls, D., and Finck-Haynes, T. 2014. What the Monarchs are Telling Us. *Medium*. June 20. Online. <https://medium.com/foe-us-newsmagazine/what-the-monarchs-are-telling-us-8b20d8b8d467>
- <sup>15</sup> Thogmartin, W.E., Wiederholt, R., *et al.* 2017. Monarch butterfly population decline in North America: identifying the threatening processes. *Royal Society open science*, 4(9), p.170760.
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>17</sup> Dai, P. *et al.* 2018. The herbicide glyphosate negatively affects midgut bacterial communities and survival of honey bee during larvae reared in vitro. *Journal of agricultural and food chemistry*. 66(29), pp.7786-7793.
- <sup>18</sup> Vázquez, D.E., Ilna, N., *et al.* 2018. Glyphosate affects the larval development of honey bees depending on the susceptibility of colonies. *PLoS one*, 13(10), p.e0205074.
- <sup>19</sup> Balbuena, M.S., Tison, L., *et al.* 2015. Effects of sublethal doses of glyphosate on honeybee navigation. *Journal of Experimental Biology*, 218(17), pp.2799-2805.
- <sup>20</sup> Paul, N. 2019. The Impacts of Glyphosate on Bumble Bee Productivity and Parasite Load. Masters Thesis. School of Biological Sciences. Queens University Belfast.
- <sup>21</sup> Mortensen, D. A., Egan, *et al.* (2012). Navigating a critical juncture for sustainable weed management. *BioScience*. 62(1), 75-84
- <sup>22</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2003. Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Frogs: Lawn and Garden Care. Online. [https://www.fws.gov/dpps/visualmedia/printingandpublishing/publications/2003\\_HomeownersGuidetoProtectingFrogs.pdf?referringSource=articleShare](https://www.fws.gov/dpps/visualmedia/printingandpublishing/publications/2003_HomeownersGuidetoProtectingFrogs.pdf?referringSource=articleShare)
- <sup>23</sup> U.S. EPA. 2015. Active Ingredients Eligible for Minimum Risk Pesticide Products. December. <http://bit.ly/2znSuXN>.
- <sup>24</sup> U.S. EPA. 2016. Inert Ingredients Eligible for FIFRA 25(b) Pesticide Products. November. <http://bit.ly/2ZyhdaC>.
- <sup>25</sup> Gabbatiss, John. New 'Safe' Pesticides to Replace Banned Chemicals Still Hurt Bees, Scientists Say. *The Independent*. April 10. <http://bit.ly/2IWIX7Z>
- <sup>26</sup> Friends of the Earth. 2020. Pesticides of High Concern for Pollinators. Developed by IPM Institute of North America. Online. [https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Pesticides-with-Pollinator-Toxicity\\_Final-4-2020.pdf](https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Pesticides-with-Pollinator-Toxicity_Final-4-2020.pdf)