



February 8, 2021

Marvin Ellison
Lowe's Companies, Inc.
1000 Lowes Blvd.
 Mooresville, NC 28117

Dear Mr. Ellison,

On behalf of the 104 organizations below and our over 7.5 million members nationwide, we are writing to urge Lowe's 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 Lowe's competitors, Costco, has already taken these steps by discontinuing products containing glyphosate from all store locations worldwide.¹ B&Q, one of the largest improvement stores in the United Kingdom, announced a similar policy in May.²

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.^{3,4}

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.⁵ 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.⁶

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.^{7,8,9,10,11,12,13}

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.^{14,15} Monarch populations have declined by 90 percent in the past two decades.¹⁶ 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.^{17,18,19,20} 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.²¹



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.²²

Because Lowe's is a top company dedicated to meeting growing consumer demand for environmentally friendly garden products, we urge Lowe's 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 active²³ and inert²⁴ 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 Lowe's leadership on pesticides. We applaud Lowe's for its efforts to remove neonicotinoid products from its live plant offerings and store shelves.

Along with phasing out sales of glyphosate, **we urge Lowe's to ensure that its efforts to eliminate neonicotinoids from plants and products adequately addresses regrettable substitutes:** newly approved systemic pesticides with chemically similar active ingredients including sulfoxaflo and flupyradifurone²⁵ as well as all other pesticides of high concern for pollinators.²⁶ Committing to these actions would demonstrate Lowe'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

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

² 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>

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