

“All pesticides are toxic to some degree ...and most have not been adequately tested to determine their effects on people or the environment” - **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

“As a pediatrician I urge all parents to reduce pesticide use as much as possible, especially lawn services. Children’s health is more important than a few weeds” - **Phil Landrigan, M.D.**

*Director of the Center for Children’s Health and the Environment,
Mount Sinai School of Medicine*

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**LAWN CHEMICALS ARE
HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH!
AND THEY’RE EVEN MORE HAZARDOUS TO
THE HEALTH OF YOUR CHILDREN AND PETS.**

A mailing of importance from The Pound Ridge Conservation Board
Visit us at: www.townofpoundridge.com/conservation for more information.

THE DANGER OF LAWN PESTICIDES

The chemicals applied to your lawn are also applied to your children, your pets, and yourself. Children are especially at risk because of their developing bodies and the time they spend playing outside.

Several types of cancer, neurological problems, endocrine disruption and birth defects have been associated with exposure to common lawn care pesticides.

THE CHEMISTRY

Avoid chloropyrifos (Dursban) and diazinon, which have now been banned for consumer use because of their neurotoxic effects. Be aware that combination "Weed and Feed" fertilizer products often contain the toxic herbicide 2,4-D, an ingredient in Agent Orange.

2,4-D is used in: Weed B Gon MAX, PAR III, Trillion, Tri-Kil, Killex and Weedaway Premium 3-Way XP Turf Herbicide. 2,4-D was one of the active ingredients in Agent Orange, the defoliating agent used in Viet Nam. Studies show links between 2,4-D exposure to cancer and ALS. 2,4-D has been banned in several countries.

Glyphosphate is the active ingredient in Roundup. Recent studies have shown that the inert ingredients in Roundup are toxic to human cells and may disrupt endocrine function.

A half-life is the time it takes for half of an herbicide/pesticide to disappear or degrade. Many herbicides/pesticides breakdown or degrade when they are exposed to soil microorganisms or sunlight. If a pesticide/herbicide is not applied correctly or if it is carried into the home on shoes or pets where it will not be in contact with soil microorganisms or sunlight, the pesticides may take much longer to break down or not break down at all. The half-lives listed here are taken from the technical literature with the assumption that the pesticides/herbicides were applied correctly. For instance, the half-life in soil for Roundup is 30 days on average. After 30 days half of the original amount will still be present. After another 30 days 25% of the original amount will still be present, and so forth.

Roundup (*Glyphosphate*): 30-47 days. Weedone (*2,4D*): 10 days, Knox-out (*Diazinon*): 40 days, Koltar (*Oxyflurofen*): 30-40 days, Ortho Weed B Gone (*Triclopyr*): 30-90 days.

To protect our water, Westchester County has placed stringent restrictions (which will go into effect 2011) on the sale and application of phosphorous containing lawn fertilizers.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Westchester County has partnered with the Grassroots Healthy Lawn Care Program to encourage natural lawn care practices without pesticides. Visit: www.grassrootsinfo.org

For more information see: www.epa.gov/pesticides
Cornell Extension: www.cce.cornell.edu/westchester,
Westchester County: www.westchestergov.com,
www.naturalturfpro.org www.beyondpesticides.org,

WORKING WITH A LAWN SERVICE

If you use a lawn care company, choose one which follows an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program. Make sure they do not use toxic pesticides.

We suggest you or your lawn care company follow these guidelines.

- Start by testing the soil, using a soil test kit, to discover what your lawns needs are.
- Aerate the lawn.
- Top dress the lawn with liquid seaweed or liquid kelp.
- Fertilize in the fall with a slow-release low-nitrogen organic fertilizer.
- Use milky spore or beneficial nematodes for grub control.
- Set mowing height to 3" to 3 1/2". Leave clippings on the lawn, they provide nutrients. Watch carefully for thatch build up, as it can block nutrients and moisture.
- If you need to water, deep water once a week; mornings are best.

It's natural for lawns to turn brown in late August. Fall rains will turn them green again.

- Reseed annually with a mixture of hardy grasses.