

Health Effects of 40 Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides



	Health Effects						
	Cancer	Endocrine Disruption	Reproductive Effects	Neurotoxicity	Kidney/Liver Damage	Sensitizer/Irritant	Birth Defects
Herbicides							
2,4-D *	X ⁴	X ¹⁰	X ⁷	X ⁸	X ⁸	X ¹	X ¹¹
Atrazine †	X ⁹	X ⁶	X ⁸	X ¹¹	X ¹¹	X ¹¹	X ⁸
Benfluralin	X ¹	X ¹			X ¹	X ¹	
Bensulide				X ²	X ¹	X ²	
Clopyralid			X ⁷			X ⁷	X ⁷
Dicamba *	Possible ¹⁵		X ¹	X ²	X ²	X ¹	X ¹
Diquat Dibromide			X ¹²		X ¹¹	X ¹	
Dithiopyr					X ¹	X ¹	
Fluazipop-p-butyl			X ¹		X ¹		X ¹
Glyphosate *	X ¹²	X ⁸	X ¹		X ⁸	X ¹	X ⁷
Imazapyr	Suggestive ^{7,8}				X ⁷	X ²	
Isoxaben	X ³				X ²		Possible ²¹
MCPA	Possible ¹⁹	X ⁶	X ²	X ²	X ¹¹	X ¹	
Mecoprop (MCP) *	Possible ³	X ⁶	X ²	X ¹	X ⁹	X ¹	X ¹
Oxadiazon	X ³	X ¹	X ¹	Possible ²²	X ¹		X ¹
Oxyfluorfen	X ³		X ¹¹		X ¹¹	X ¹¹	X ¹¹
Pendimethalin *	Possible ³		X ¹		X ⁹	X ²	X ²
Proflumicarb	X ¹	Suggestive ¹	Possible ¹⁶	X ¹			Possible ¹⁶
Sulfentrazone			X ¹³	Possible ¹³		X ¹³	X ¹³
Triclopyr			X ⁷		X ⁹	X ¹	X ⁷
Trifluralin	Possible ³	X ⁹	X ¹	X ²³	X ²	X ¹	
Insecticides							
Abamectin/ Avermectin B1			X ¹¹	X ¹¹			X ⁹
Acephate *	Possible ³	X ⁶	X ¹¹	X ⁹		X ²	
Bifenthrin *†	Possible ³	Suspected ^{6,10}		X ⁸		X ¹	X ⁹
Carbaryl	X ³	X ¹⁰	X ⁸	X ¹	X ¹¹	X ¹¹	X ⁷
Cyfluthrin †		Possible ¹⁷	X ⁹	X ⁹	X ⁹	X ⁹	
Deltamethrin †		X ¹⁰		X ⁸		X ⁹	
Fipronil	Possible ³	X ⁶	X ⁸	X ⁸	X ⁸	X ⁸	
Imidacloprid ‡		X ⁶	X ⁷	Possible ¹⁸	X ²		X ⁷
Malathion *	Probable ¹²	X ¹⁰	X ¹¹	X ⁹	X ²	X ²	X ²
Permethrin *†	X ³	Suspected ^{6,10}	X ^{1,7}	X ^{7,9}	X ⁹	X ¹	
Trichlorfon	X ³	X ⁶	X ¹¹	X ²	X ²	X ¹¹	X ²
Fungicides							
Azoxystrobin					X ²	X ²	
Chlorothalonil	X ³		X ⁷	X ¹⁴	X ⁹	X ¹	
Metalaxyl	Possible ²⁰	Possible ²⁰			X ⁹	X ¹	
Myclobutanil		Probable ⁶	X ²		X ²		
Propiconazole	Possible ³	X ⁶	X ²		X ¹	X ¹	
Sulfur β						X ¹	
Thiophanate methyl	X ³	X ¹	X ¹	Suspected ¹	X ¹	X ²	X ¹
Ziram	Suggestive ³	Suspected ⁶		X ²	X ²	X ²	
Totals:	26	24	29	24	32	33	21

*These pesticides are among the top 10 most heavily used pesticides in the home and garden sector from 2008-2012, according to the latest sales and usage data available from EPA (2017), available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-01/documents/pesticides-industry-sales-usage-2016_0.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.

¥ Atrazine has residential uses in Southeast United States.

β Least Toxic

Suggestive = Suspected

Description

This chart bases most toxicity determination on interpretations and conclusions of studies by university, government, or organization databases that classify chemical compounds and supports the strongest evidence. However, there is a body of scientific literature which aims to resolve discrepancies in health effects through the Beyond Pesticides' Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management. Empty cells may refer to either insufficient data or if the chemical is considered relatively non-toxic based on currently available data.

The list of 40 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, including peer-reviewed studies not incorporated in this document, 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. [Include silent spring study in the gateway]

Citations

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