



Newsletter about Pesticides

N°7 – February 2022

Jurisdictional News



Hawaii: Monsanto agrees to pay \$12 million and plead guilty to 30 environmental crimes

[Court documents](#) from December 6, 2021, in Hawaii reveal that Monsanto has just agreed to pay \$12 million and plead guilty to federal charges that it illegally sent workers to fields that had been sprayed with pesticides, and violated a previous deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) regarding the storage of a banned pesticide.

The agrochemical company admitted in a plea agreement to [30 environmental crimes](#) related to the use of a glufosinate ammonium herbicide product, sold under the name Forfeit 280. After using the product in 2020 on corn fields in Oahu, Hawaii, Monsanto allowed workers to enter the fields during a six-day "restricted access interval" (RAI) after the product was applied. The agreement calls for Monsanto to serve three years of probation, pay a total of \$12 million,

and continue a comprehensive environmental compliance program that includes a third-party auditor for another three years.

The company is also being sued because, by allowing workers to enter fields sprayed with Forfeit 280 to conduct corn scouting within six days of spraying ("corn scouting" involves checking corn for weeds, insects or diseases), the company violated a 2019 DPA related to the storage of a banned pesticide. According to court filings, Monsanto will plead guilty to two felony charges filed in 2019 that the government would have dismissed, had the company complied with federal law.

Along with the DPA related to the two felony charges of unlawful storage of a highly hazardous waste, Monsanto pleaded guilty in early 2020 to a [misdemeanor charge of unlawfully spraying a banned pesticide](#) - specifically methyl parathion, the active ingredient in PennCap-M - on research crops at one of its Maui facilities. Monsanto [admitted](#) a lack of oversight and supervision on its part but said no adverse health effects were reported to company officials in connection with the violations.

According to U.S. Attorney Tracy L. Wilkison, "Monsanto is a serial violator of federal environmental laws...exposing people to pesticides that can cause serious health problems."

By failing to comply with regulations governing hazardous waste storage and pesticide application, Monsanto has knowingly endangered people and the environment.

If you've made it this far, can you make one more tiny effort?

Justice Pesticides needs your help to continue this work of investigation and information to support victims of pesticides.

[I donate to Justice Pesticides](#)

[Back to Justice Pesticides Website](#)