



Newsletter about Pesticides

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Civil society activities



USA: Essential foods contaminated with Glyphosate

On February 21, 2022, the *Detox Project*, a research and certification platform that promotes transparency in the food and supplement industries about toxic chemicals, published a detailed [report](#) on the presence of glyphosate in the most common food products. These are the results of the most exhaustive tests conducted in the United States on the subject.

The foods were purchased at major grocery stores across the country, such as Walmart, Whole Foods, Hy-Vee, Target, Natural Grocers and Amazon. The worst offending products were found in Hy-Vee, Whole Foods Market and Walmart, with the products with the lowest levels being found in Natural Grocers.

The report reveals widespread contamination of common grocery items, including bread, legumes and cereals, with glyphosate, which has been classified by the WHO as a probable human carcinogen since 2015.

As an example, in a test of 86 food items collected from grocery stores in Des Moines, Iowa, more than half of the items (45 foods) contained alarming levels of glyphosate, from 12 parts per billion (ppb) in Whole Foods "sprouted whole wheat bread" to 889 ppb in Walmart brand chickpeas, 1040 ppb in Whole Foods 365 whole wheat sandwich bread, to the highest level detected of 1150 ppb in Hy-Vee 100% whole wheat bread.

Glyphosate-based herbicides, such as Roundup, have become the most widely used weed killers in the world, due to the development of genetically modified crops. Moreover, they are commonly marketed to farmers, not only as weed killers, but also as desiccants: farmers spray non-GM crops such as wheat and oats shortly before harvest to dry them out, leading to massive contamination of foods that are the basis of our diet. In addition to wheat, oats and barley, Roundup and other glyphosate-based herbicides are regularly sprayed on more than 70 crops, including almonds, apples, dry edible beans, lentils, chickpeas, peas, grapes, rice and sunflowers. They are so [ubiquitous](#) that glyphosate has been found in food, water and even rain. The chemical has also been found in increasing amounts in human urine.

Henry Rowlands, director of the Detox Project, says that we don't know the full health effects of exposure to glyphosate at very low levels, so we need to follow the precautionary principle and ban the sale of this herbicide immediately.

If you have made it this far, can you make one more small effort to allow us to continue this work of investigation and information to help the victims of pesticides?

Justice Pesticides needs you.

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