



Newsletter about Pesticides

N°9 – September 2022

Jurisdictional News



USA: Supreme Court issues final judgments against Monsanto

On June 21, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court [refused](#) to consider Monsanto's appeal seeking a review of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's decision to award \$25 million to **Edwin Hardeman**, a victim of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) attributed to his regular use of Roundup herbicides. **Edwin Hardeman**, a California retiree, was one of the first Roundup victims to sue Monsanto.

In 2015, **Edwin Hardeman** was diagnosed with NHL, a form of cancer, after having used Roundup for more than 20 years on his property. He blames Monsanto, the producer of Roundup, for his illness.

On March 27, 2019, the jury in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California had unanimously found that Mr. **Hardeman**'s exposure to Roundup was instrumental in causing his cancer and that Monsanto was responsible for those damages. The company was ordered to pay \$80 million in punitive and compensatory damages. Those were later reduced by the judge to \$25 million.

The ruling was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit of the Northern District of California on May 14, 2021. Bayer, the German group that bought Monsanto in 2018, then asked the Supreme Court to reverse this verdict. On June 21, 2022, the court refused to consider the appeal. Bayer/Monsanto is therefore definitively convicted in this case and will have to pay \$25 million to the victim.

Less than a week later, on June 27, 2022, the Supreme Court rejected another appeal by Bayer. The company sought a review of the [decision](#) from the court of appeal of California to pay \$87 million to the **Pilliod** couple, also victims of NHL as a result of their years of use of Roundup. The Supreme Court's rejection of the appeal is the second definitive conviction of the company.

These two Supreme Court decisions bring great hope to tens of thousands of victims of Roundup herbicide, beyond the relief provided to **Edwin Hardeman** and the **Pilliod** couple. Although Bayer has managed to avoid tens of thousands of lawsuits by [setting aside](#) more than \$11 billion to compensate victims, the company is still involved in approximately 30,000 lawsuits.

These two victories raise hopes that other victims of the weed killer still in litigation against the company will win their cases. Unfortunately, the latest [Roundup trial](#), which began in late August 2022 and was the first trial to take place in St. Louis, Monsanto's headquarters for decades, dampened the enthusiasm over Monsanto's Supreme Court convictions. The jury was not convinced of the link between Roundup exposure and the development of NHL in the three plaintiffs, and declined to condemn the company.

Bayer said it would continue to defend its product, and that it was prepared to face the legal risk associated with potential future claims in the United States. Lawyers for Roundup victims believe that the recent [court decision](#) condemning the EPA for a biased evaluation of glyphosate will benefit the plaintiffs.

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?

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