

GLYPHOSATE:

A useful tool if safety protocols are followed

UF/IFAS is committed to safety and supports integrated pest management as the first line of defense against weeds and other pests. The tools in our toolkit can include glyphosate and other pesticides. Recently, Bayer – the primary manufacturer of glyphosate – moved to settle an estimated 95,000 complaints against glyphosate in a class-action settlement. This settlement has not impacted the legal purchase or use of glyphosate as it is still fully registered with EPA and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). UF/IFAS remains committed to science on this subject and will continually review any new relevant data.

Environmental Protection Agency Findings on Glyphosate Safety

In April 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued draft risk assessments concerning the potential effects of glyphosate on human health and the environment, concluding that glyphosate “is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans.” [epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-04/documents/glyphosate-pid-signed.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-04/documents/glyphosate-pid-signed.pdf)

This statement has been backed up by studies from numerous countries that have conducted their own

independent review. Moreover, this stance has been upheld twice in U.S. courts that ruled against requiring warning labels to be placed on glyphosate-containing herbicides.

Proper Use of Glyphosate

UF/IFAS vigilantly monitors for studies involving impacts to human health for any practices we recommend. Given the lack of any new evidence that would steer us otherwise, we continue to recommend glyphosate as one of the available weed control tools for integrated pest management plans. Users of products containing glyphosate, or any pesticide, should carefully read and follow all label directions. The label will provide guidance regarding safety and proper use of the product, including personal protective equipment requirements. Management decisions and compliance with all label requirements rests with the individual user.

Importance of training

UF/IFAS Extension provides opportunities for pesticide applicators to receive certification training on the safe and proper use of pesticides, including glyphosate. This training is often not a requirement but done voluntarily, with many choosing to take the required certification exams to pursue a license issued by FDACS.

Contacts

Jason Ferrell

Director and Professor
Pesticide Information Office
(352) 273-3685
jferrell@ufl.edu

Brett Bultemeier

Extension
Assistant Professor
(352) 294-6941
bwbult@ufl.edu

Stephen Enloe

Associate Professor
(352) 392-6841
sfenloe@ufl.edu

Please direct media requests to:

Chris Vivian

Associate Vice President
UF/IFAS Communications
(352) 294-3329
cvivian@ufl.edu