

Email received on July 10, 2019, at 2:57 PM

Dear Mayor Rusty Bailey,

As a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, Master Gardener, previous High School biology teacher, past Green Riverside Festival member, and proud Riverside resident, I implore our city government to join the many other cities and jurisdictions that are ceasing use of glyphosate (RoundUp) along with many other toxic pesticides. Please, let's be in the forefront of adopting non-toxic land management practices and make our city a healthier place to be.

I and several of my colleagues working toward a non-toxic community are willing to come in to the city council and make a presentation about alternative solutions. We can also direct you to many resources for more information and help.

The last month has seen a level of activity that supports immediate action. Two more juries came in with the verdict that the herbicide caused plaintiffs' non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) —this time handing the manufacturer, Monsanto/Bayer, a bill for \$80 million (\$5 million in compensatory damages and \$75 million in punitive damages), and then a judgment for \$2 billion, including \$55 million in damages for a married couple.

Insurance companies are now backing away from Roundup. Harrell's is a company that sells chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and other products, primarily to golf courses and the horticulture-nursery, turf, and landscape sectors. The company announced on March 11 it stopped selling glyphosate products as of March 1 because neither its current insurance company nor others Harrell's consulted would underwrite coverage for any glyphosate-related claims.

Harrell's CEO stated: "During our annual insurance renewal last month, we were surprised to learn that our insurance company was no longer willing to provide coverage for claims related to glyphosate due to the recent high-profile lawsuit and the many thousands of lawsuits since. We sought coverage from other companies but could not buy adequate coverage for the risk we would be incurring. So we had no choice other than to notify our Harrell's Team and customers that we would no longer offer products containing glyphosate."

Concern has increased since a Fox Business story shortly after the verdict in the Johnson v. Monsanto case, which reported, "Top U.S. retailers such as Home Depot, Target, Walmart and Amazon are sticking by Monsanto's controversial weed killer Roundup one week after a California jury awarded a school groundskeeper \$289 million for proving the spray caused him to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma." Indeed, insurer (and perhaps re-insurer) concern may well increase in light of the deluge of lawsuits glyphosate use has triggered.

Meanwhile scientific studies linking glyphosate to serious adverse effects still keep coming in. A recent study published in Environmental Health on March 12, shows

glyphosate-based herbicides are associated with endocrine and reproductive effects. This is on top of the scientific findings by the World Health Organization that the chemical probably causes cancer. A meta-study in February 2018 concluded that there is a “compelling link between exposures to GBH [glyphosate-based herbicides] and increased risk of NHL.” Still the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fails to act.

On March 1, the City of Miami established an immediate ban on the use of any glyphosate-based herbicides by the city and any of its contractors.

It is time to stop glyphosate use or risk continued exposure to the state’s populations and adverse health effects, along with the financial exposure that the threat of litigation brings.

Beyond Pesticides and other organizations which have worked for many years to educate stakeholders and policy makers about the dangers of pesticides, stand ready to assist our community in transforming pest management by eliminating a reliance on toxic pesticides and adopting organic management practices.

I look forward to your reply and moving ahead to protect the health and environment of our community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Christine Lampe