

Media Alert

Reviewed 27 February 2020

Reviewed 13 June 2019

Monday 13 August 2018

Background

The debate around Glyphosate (Round Up) has continued since August 2018.

In Australia [a class action is about to be launched](#) by LHD Lawyers.

Also in Australia, some councils like [Yarra Councils, VIC](#) are seeking to phase out the use of glyphosate. Globally, corporations are looking to manage the risk, with cereal giant [Kellogg's announcing](#) they are phasing out the controversial weedkiller glyphosate from its oat and wheat supply chain by 2025 (January 2020).

The discussion on Glyphosate (Round Up) being on 7 August 2018 when a Brazilian Federal Judge banned the use of glyphosate pending review of 'legal papers' and on 11 August [Reuters reported the results of a US lawsuit brought](#) by Dewayne Johnson, former US school grounds keeper, against Monsanto claiming their product Round Up caused his cancer. Monsanto is appealing the case.

The story spread internationally and was commented on in [Australia by ABC immediately](#) on Saturday 11 Aug (AEST) and coverage has been ongoing since. Comments have been made by Australian Cancer Council, APVMA, Major retailers including Bunnings and Mitre 10 etc. The case has triggered much debate about the use of glyphosate both commercially and domestically.

In March 2015, the [International Agency for Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#) classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A).

In Australia, [the current assessment by the APVMA](#) is that products containing glyphosate are safe to use according to the label instructions.

In [the US, the Environmental Protection Authority has recently concluded](#) a review (January 2020) which concluded that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used according to the label and that it is not a carcinogen.

Greenlife Industry Australia - Position

GIA's position remains unchanged:

- The greenlife industry in Australia is aware and following the debate around glyphosate.
- Glyphosate is an ingredient found in a number of commercial and domestic products and is used commercially within the nursery industry and domestically by home gardeners as common weed management brand.
- The use of glyphosate and glyphosate products is regulated by APVMA who reviewed the product in 2016 "*following the [IARC assessment](#), the APVMA considered glyphosate and found no grounds to place it under formal reconsideration. Glyphosate is registered for use in Australia and APVMA approved products containing glyphosate can continue to be used safely according to label directions*".

- GIA's advice to all users of glyphosate products as well as any herbicide, fungicide or pesticide product is to:
 - ensure that users and managers are appropriately trained through chemical users training
 - to take all necessary safety precautions including using gloves as well as face and eye protection.
 - always follow the application instructions on the label
 - For more information contact the product manufacturer.
- GIA also encourages the practice of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as an underlying approach to managing any pest (insect, disease, weed etc) intervention activity including the rotation of control options.

Authorised representatives for comment on this issue

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Media protocol

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ⁱ <https://apvma.gov.au/node/13891>