



GLYPHOSATE IS VITAL

A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of wildflowers, including yellow daisies and purple flowers. In the middle ground, a red tractor with a long, low-profile implement is driving across a large, flat, brown field. The background consists of a line of green trees under a dark, overcast sky with a faint rainbow visible on the right side.

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WHAT IS GLYPHOSATE?

Glyphosate is a broad spectrum systemic herbicide and the active ingredient in the world's most reliable weed killer – one of the most recognisable brands is Roundup. It is widely used both in the UK and internationally in a variety of different areas – farming, sports grounds, golf courses, public open spaces, railway lines, private gardens – and has been used safely for more than 40 years.



Glyphosate is one of the safest plant protection products in the world and poses no risk to people when used correctly.¹

#GLYPHOSATEISSAFE

IS GLYPHOSATE SAFE?

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) carried out a review which concluded that **glyphosate poses minimal risk to non-target plants and animals when used appropriately**. This view was also upheld in a joint report from the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN. The only body to conclude that glyphosate might pose a health risk is the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which concluded it is “probably carcinogenic to humans”.

Regulatory bodies across the globe² have recently studied the scientific evidence on glyphosate and concluded that it is **unlikely to pose a human health risk when used correctly**.

According to IARC's classifications, drinking very hot drinks, working as a hairdresser, and working night-shifts are as likely to cause cancer as glyphosate.

#GLYPHOSATEISBENEFICIAL



Without glyphosate, increased ploughing would, in many cases, reverse improvements to soil structure, increase greenhouse gas emissions, destroy more earthworms and a return to highly intensive mechanical weeding could impact on ground nesting bird species such as skylark and grey partridge.



HOW AND WHY IS GLYPHOSATE USED?

Glyphosate is one of the most effective plant protection products in the world. In UK farming it is used in stubble fields for weed control before planting and before new crops start to appear. It is also used on some cereals and oilseed rape crops in the field, before harvest. Glyphosate is used to prepare the crop for harvesting, remove weeds that are difficult to control at other times, reduce disease and the potential for natural contaminants to develop, and to curb the number of weeds in the following season. It also reduces the need for ploughing, which helps the environment through reducing CO₂ emissions, minimising soil erosion, and improving soil quality.

¹ European Food Safety Authority. ² World Health Organisation; Food & Agriculture Organisation and the UN; Environmental Protection Agency, United States; Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Canada; Environmental Protection Authority, New Zealand; Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority, Australia

HOW #GLYPHOSATE WORKS FOR US ALL

The withdrawal of approval for glyphosate would entail serious consequences for farmers and our environment



1 Returning to mechanical weed control would impact on lapwing, partridge and skylark nests destroying eggs and young chicks



2 Using glyphosate allows conservation tillage which protects soils. There are **53%** more earthworms in no plough systems of cultivation

-4%

3 Reintroducing ploughing into non-tillage fields can reduce soil organic matter by **4%** in the first 1-6 months



4 **49%** more labour would be needed per hectare each year



5 Glyphosate protects **20%** of winter wheat and winter oilseed rape yield



6 Glyphosate use allows **15%** more rapeseed and **17%** more wheat to be produced



3.4 TIMES THE SIZE OF LONDON

7 Losing glyphosate would mean **546,000 hectares** more land would be needed to grow the same amount of food



8 **25%** increase in arable crop GHG emissions if glyphosate were no longer available



9 Without glyphosate **12 million tonnes** of CO_{2e} would be added to our atmosphere (equivalent to emissions from at least **2.5 million** cars)

MEMBERS HAVE ASKED WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP ENSURE ACCESS TO GLYPHOSATE

- For inspiration, check out the NFU glyphosate infographic and see which facts are relevant to your farm and those you can bring to life during farm visits, in letters and articles or on social media.
- Get local MPs/ MEPs onto your farm - Invite them to come and look at your soils, weed burden, any cover crops, no till/ min till systems and explain how glyphosate allows you to farm. You can find out who represents you on <http://www.ukpolitical.info/Finder.htm>
- Write to your local MPs/MEPs and explain the significant environmental impacts losing glyphosate would cause you.
- Twitter, use a picture of you on farm and a simple, easy-to-understand statement that explains how glyphosate is vital to your farm business. Include the hashtag #glyphosateisvital.

If you need help producing content look on NFU Online – Crop Protection Pages as there is lots of information

Farmers need as many of their individual fellow-farming voices as possible to get involved in the debate. The louder farming's voice is, the more impact it will have.