



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

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## **Twelve things you should know about glyphosate:**

1. It is the best-selling herbicide in the world and the most widely-used in Europe. Some 650,000 tonnes of glyphosate products were used globally in 2011.
2. The global market for glyphosate was worth US\$6.5 billion in 2008
3. Glyphosate is toxic to all plants – unless they have been genetically modified to resist it.
4. Independent studies of glyphosate have suggested that the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) should be 12 times lower than the level in force in the EU.
5. Studies have shown that glyphosate may be linked to changes in the human hormone system, birth defects and cancer.
6. Glyphosate is combined with other chemicals in weed killer – and these alter the toxicity of the final product, making it as much as 150 times more toxic.
7. The evidence used in the glyphosate approval process in 2002 relied entirely on studies paid for by the pesticides industry, many of which have not been published. Indeed the industry has asked that 130 studies be kept secret.
8. In some parts of Europe (eg UK), glyphosate is sprayed on to crops before they are harvested – to dry the crop out and make it easier to harvest.
9. There are 14 applications for GM glyphosate tolerant crops currently awaiting approval in the European Union. Glyphosate use is predicted to increase by as much as 800% by 2025 if GM glyphosate-tolerant sugar beet, maize and soybean are grown in the EU.
10. Industry studies focus almost exclusively on short-term, high dose animal trials – but real life exposure occurs over the long term, at low or fluctuating doses.
11. Monsanto produced more than half of the world's glyphosate in 2012.
12. Maximum Residue Levels in food and feed have been steadily increased – not because of scientific evidence, but because of the growing use of glyphosate in agriculture.