

THE PROBLEM

Pesticides are being used in large quantities without consideration for the harmful effects these toxic chemicals are having on public health, air and water quality, and our environment. Because the federal government has abdicated its duty to regulate pesticides effectively, Connecticut must step up to protect our citizens and natural resources.

Compounding the issue in Connecticut, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) does not have an adequate tracking system that would allow for transparency about what types of pesticides are in use, where they are being applied, and who is using them. The lack of a tracking system prevents DEEP from being able to oversee and adequately enforce pesticide regulations already in place.

While Connecticut has taken substantial steps to regulate certain pesticides in specific situations, we must now take action to ban chlorpyrifos: a known neurotoxin and carcinogen. In 2016, the federal government was poised to ban chlorpyrifos, but with the change of administration in 2017, the ban was reversed putting the burden on the states to act. So far Hawaii, California and New York have all taken action to ban the use of chlorpyrifos in any amount for any purpose.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

During the 2019 legislative session, the Environment and Judiciary Committees passed HB 7346 to prohibit the use of certain organophosphates. Organophosphates such as chlorpyrifos are a dangerous class of pesticides linked to leukemia and other cancers as well as Parkinson's Disease and neurological disorders in children.

Also in 2019, the Environment Committee raised a bill (HB 5999) to regulate pesticides in the state. This would have created a clear electronic tracking system for pesticides and ensured that the state is enforcing pesticide regulations already in place.

Unfortunately, due to major lobbying efforts from the pesticide industry, national agricultural interests, and other big businesses and third parties, neither of these bills passed.



Chlorpyrifos is a dangerous pesticide that clogs up our air and water when sprayed on agricultural land.

However, DEEP has begun to modernize its tracking system to provide transparency and enable DEEP to better enforce pesticide regulations. The new system is expected to go into effect March 2021.

In order to address the serious concerns with pesticides, lawmakers must ban pesticides, including chlorpyrifos with known and proven dangers.

Both steps are essential to protecting public health and ensuring sustainability for our planet.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more, contact:

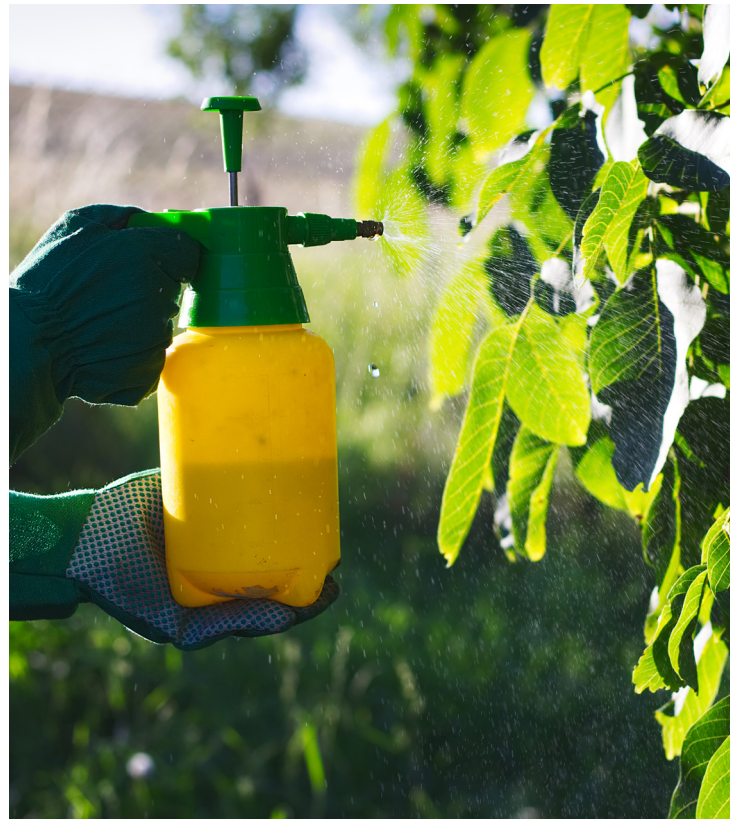
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FAST FACTS

- ◆ Chlorpyrifos is a highly toxic pesticide derived from a nerve gas made in Nazi Germany.
- ◆ Americans regularly come into contact with this widely used chemical through residue on food, contaminated drinking water, and tainted air.
- ◆ Scientific studies have linked chlorpyrifos to brain damage in children, autism, cancer, Parkinson's disease, and other negative health issues. Farmers, farmworkers and rural communities are especially at risk of immediate and long-term adverse health impacts due to direct exposure to chlorpyrifos during agricultural pesticide application
- ◆ Field workers can re-enter fields within 1-5 days after pesticide spraying, but unsafe exposures continue on average 18 days after applications.
- ◆ More often than not, the men and women spraying pesticides are lower-income from minority communities. These workers are often paid unfair wages and are subject to the extremely harmful effects of pesticides. Connecticut needs to properly track these damaging chemicals to protect the lives of all humans, regardless of their race, gender, and socio-economic status.
- ◆ Healthy pregnancies and fetal brain development are particularly vulnerable to harm from chlorpyrifos and other organophosphate pesticides.
- ◆ Children aged 1-2 are exposed to chlorpyrifos levels that are 140 times what the EPA deems safe.
- ◆ A 2010 study by Emory University found that pre-natal and early childhood exposure can increase the risks of neurological disorders such as ADHD in children. Pesticides sprayed on agricultural land clog up our air and water and are known to cause major health effects in field workers.
- ◆ Chlorpyrifos is also known to be extremely harmful to wildlife, namely birds, fish and pollinators. Federal scientists have concluded this pesticide poses a risk to about 1,800 critically threatened or endangered species.



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- ◆ Despite considerable evidence demonstrating that chlorpyrifos is harmful to people and the environment, the federal government has not yet banned this pesticide.
- ◆ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed banning chlorpyrifos in 2015. Agency experts determined **there is no safe way to use the chemical**. However, former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt refused to finalize the proposed ban on chlorpyrifos as one of his first formal acts in office.
- ◆ The policy reversal on the chlorpyrifos ban has resulted in numerous state attorneys general filing a lawsuit against the EPA, and led Hawaii to pass a bill banning chlorpyrifos use throughout the state. The Ninth Circuit Court ordered the EPA to move forward with the ban, but the Trump administration appealed the decision.