

Since 1985, the Ohio Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides has protected families, especially children and the chemically sensitive, by promoting the safer and cost-effective pest control practices of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

IPM is a common sense, science based pest control program of prevention, sanitation, monitoring, trapping and baiting which significantly reduces, or in many cases eliminates, the need to spray pesticides.



OCAMP offers workshops, speakers, and research on all areas of safer pest control.

**Yes, I want to support OCAMP's efforts to stop pesticide poisoning and push for the adoption of safer pest control practices.**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation made out to NCAMP (the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides) our fiscal agent. All funds go to OCAMP. Please mail your donation to:

**OCAMP, 13507 Ardoon Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44120**

**CONTRIBUTION LEVEL:**

- OCAMP Friend \$ 35.00
- OCAMP Member \$ 50.00
- OCAMP Activist \$100.00
- OCAMP Advocate \$250.00
- OCAMP Sustainer \$500.00
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I want to be a volunteer. Please contact me.

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# Ohio Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides



**Dedicated to protecting people and the environment from unnecessary exposure to toxic pesticides.**

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## ARE PESTICIDES DANGEROUS?

Pesticides are toxic chemicals. Many affect the nervous system. Acute symptoms of pesticide poisoning are often mistaken for the flu—headache, nausea, dizziness or sweating. Other common symptoms may include diarrhea, breathing difficulties, rashes, moodiness and fatigue.

Longer term serious health problems associated with pesticide exposure may include asthma,<sup>1</sup> cancer<sup>2</sup> and difficulty in learning.<sup>3</sup>

### **Pesticides can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin when in contact with treated surfaces or treated lawns.**

Pesticides are found in thousands of products that are used in your home, garden, school, parks and workplace. They are used to kill a range of pests including insects, rodents, weeds, molds and bacteria.

### **Pesticides are not safe. Claims that a chemical pesticide is safe or nontoxic, even when used as directed, are illegal under federal law.<sup>4</sup>**

Even a small exposure to pesticides during a critical window of a child's development could cause permanent damage.<sup>5</sup> Dogs exposed to lawn chemicals increase their risk of cancer.<sup>6</sup>

### **OCAMP promotes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a viable alternative to spraying toxic chemicals for pest control.**

## PESTICIDES IN SCHOOLS

A study published in the July 2005 *Journal of the American Medical Association* finds that pesticide exposure at schools can produce acute illness among school employees and students.<sup>7</sup>

Research shows that pesticides are both a root cause and a trigger for asthma.<sup>1</sup> Asthma is one of the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic illness.<sup>8</sup>

Some pesticides commonly sprayed in schools are possibly linked to ADHD,<sup>9</sup> learning disabilities,<sup>3</sup> autism<sup>10</sup> and are probably linked to childhood leukemia.<sup>5</sup>

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Contact your school administrator to see if your school has adopted a written IPM pest control policy as required by law. Ohio Department of Health Regulation No. 3701-54-09(M)(12) states:

*The school shall have a written Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy that includes: identification of pests and conditions that attract pests; prevention techniques, such as sanitation, vacuuming, structural repair and sealing; monitoring; education and training; approved least toxic chemical use; pre-notification of chemical use.*

- Ask to see a copy of your school's IPM policy. If they do not have one, contact OCAMP for assistance. Also contact the Ohio Department of Health.

## PESTICIDES IN HOMES AND ON LAWNS AND GARDENS

A study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* finds that household and garden pesticide use can increase the risk of childhood leukemia by as much as sevenfold.<sup>11</sup>

People exposed to glyphosate found in Roundup® are 2.7 times more likely to develop non-Hodgkins-lymphoma.<sup>12</sup>

Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 have studies indicating they may be carcinogens, 13 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 15 with neurotoxicity, 26 with liver or kidney damage and 11 potentially disrupt the endocrine system.<sup>13</sup>

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Visit the website of Good Nature Organic Lawn Care at [www.whygoodnature.com](http://www.whygoodnature.com)

- Read the *Chemical-Free Lawn* by Warren Schultz.

- Visit the Beyond Pesticides website at [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org) for nontoxic lawn care fact sheets.

- Know your rights: if requested, you are entitled to be pre-notified of any lawn chemical application made to an abutting property done by a commercial lawn service.

## WEST NILE VIRUS: THE TRUTH ABOUT MOSQUITO CONTROL

The broadcast spraying of pesticides for control of mosquitoes is both highly ineffective and represents a potential and real threat to human health and the environment.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) spraying pesticides to kill adult mosquitoes is usually the least efficient mosquito control technique.<sup>14</sup>

### **Washington D.C. cites both lack of killing efficacy and asthma concerns among reasons for its no mosquito spray policy.<sup>14</sup>**

Spraying pesticides kills beneficial insects and natural mosquito predators.<sup>15</sup> The two most common pesticides used for mosquito control are synthetic pyrethroids and organophosphates. Both have been shown to be toxic to the nervous system<sup>16</sup> and some pyrethroids are believed to be endocrine disruptors.<sup>17</sup>



### **What You Can Do:**

- Contact your county and city health departments to determine if they broadcast spray pesticides for mosquito control. If they do, request they stop and switch to an IPM program. Also ask to be pre-notified before any spraying occurs.

- For in depth strategies and information on nontoxic mosquito control, visit the website of Beyond Pesticides at [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org). or contact OCAMP at [ocamp@neo.rr.com](mailto:ocamp@neo.rr.com)

- Eliminate mosquito breeding sites in your yard (i.e. standing water.)

- Use personal protection: wear long sleeves and pants, repair screens, use nontoxic repellents. A list of nontoxic repellents can be found at [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org) or contact OCAMP at [ocamp@neo.rr.com](mailto:ocamp@neo.rr.com)