

No to the re-approval of glyphosate – Large aerial dispersal confirmed

October 14 2021



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

The EU authorities' assumption that glyphosate does not spread through the air has been disproven. The results of the German study "Pesticide pollution of the air" prove that glyphosate and dozens of other pesticides are traveling through the air for miles into national parks and cities. The analysis was initially published in 2019 and has now been peer-reviewed

by independent scientists and published in the journal *Environmental Sciences Europe*. It was commissioned by the Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft and the Umweltinstitut München and is the most comprehensive data set on pesticide pollution in the air in Germany. However, the EU authorities responsible for the approval process concerning the use of glyphosate have so far excluded air transport.

Boris Frank, chairman of the Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft: "The EU approval process for glyphosate is built on false facts. Our study, which has now been reviewed by an independent scientific panel, shows that the agricultural toxin binds to dust particles and is carried through the air for many miles into the country. Glyphosate ends up in protected natural areas, on organic fields and in the air we breathe. Glyphosate must not be re-authorized under any circumstances."

In the peer-reviewed study "Pesticides and pesticide-related products in ambient air in Germany," the agricultural toxin glyphosate was detected at every single one of the total 69 measuring points distributed throughout Germany. It was found far away from potential fields of origin, even in national parks like the Bavarian Forest or on the Harzer Brocken. Glyphosate is classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans" by the World Health Organization (WHO) and has a devastating effect on insects and their habitats.

Christine Vogt, expert for agriculture at the Umweltinstitut München: "It has now been clearly proven that agricultural toxins spread far more than what was assumed by the approval authorities so far. We call on the EU authorities to incorporate these scientifically confirmed findings into the re-evaluation of glyphosate. Anything else would be an act of gross negligence." Currently, the public participation process for the re-authorization of glyphosate from 2022 is underway. The Bündnis für

eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft and the Umweltinstitut München therefore submit the study "Pesticides and pesticide-related products in ambient air in Germany" to the relevant authorities.

In addition to glyphosate, dozens of other pesticides were recorded in the ambient air as the study shows. "We detected 109 different pesticides, including 28 that are not approved for use in Germany," says Dr. Maren Kruse-Platz, lead author of the study and scientist at the research office TIEM Integrated Environmental Monitoring, which conducted the analysis. "At each sampling site, we identified at least one pesticide. In most of them, there were several active substances, and at one site there were even 36 different substances. We have a chemical cocktail in the air whose effects on humans and animals are completely unknown."

The Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft and the Umweltinstitut München support the demand of the European Citizen's Initiative Save Bees and Farmers to gradually ban all synthetic pesticides in the EU by 2035. In the meantime, the European pesticide approval process must take the long-range transport of pesticides via the air and the combination effect of different active substances into account. The process for authorizing glyphosate after 2022 is a good place to start.

More information: Maren Kruse-Platz et al, Pesticides and pesticide-related products in ambient air in Germany, *Environmental Sciences Europe* (2021). [DOI: 10.1186/s12302-021-00553-4](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12302-021-00553-4)

Provided by Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft e. V.

Citation: No to the re-approval of glyphosate – Large aerial dispersal confirmed (2021, October 14) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-10-re-approval-glyphosate-large->

[aerial-dispersal.html](#)

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.