

TEXAS WEB SITES:

TAP - Texans for Alternatives to Pesticides

www.nopesticides.org

Citizens' Environmental Coalition

www.cechouston.org

Howard Garrett's Basic Organic Program

www.dirtdoctor.com

TX PIN - Texas Pesticide Information Network

www.texascenter.org/txpin

IPM Resource Center For Schools/Childcare

<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu>

NATIONAL WEB SITES:

EXTOXNET – Pesticide Information

www.ace.ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet

NCAP - Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

www.pesticide.org

Coalition for Health and Environmental Justice

www.chef.org

Rachel Carson Council

www.rachelcarson.org

The Pesticides Trust

www.gn.apc.org/pesticidetrust

CIIN - Chemical Injury Information Network

www.ciin.org

PANNA – Pesticide Action Network, North America

www.panna.org/panna

Safe 2 Use

www.safe2use.com

Beyond Pesticides - NCAMP – National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides

www.beyondpesticides.org

Children's Environmental Health Network

www.cehn.org

Consumers Union

www.consumersunion.org

BIRC – Bio-Integral Resource Center

www.birc.org

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Pesticides Programs

www.epa.gov/pesticides

School Pesticide Reform Coalition (SPRC)

www.nopoison.org

www.pesticidefreelawns.org

Texans for Alternatives to Pesticides (TAP) is the only Texas organization that focuses exclusively on the reduction and future elimination of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides) from our environment. TAP's mission is "to reduce the use of pesticides in homes, schools and public areas."

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TEXANS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

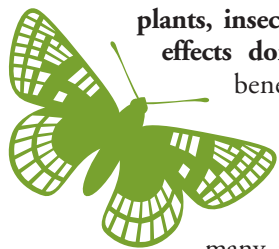


IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT BUTTERFLIES



**TEXANS FOR
ALTERNATIVES
TO PESTICIDES**
SAVING THE PLANET ONE YARD AT A TIME.

www.nopesticides.org



Pesticides are poisons created to kill plants, insects and rodents, but their effects don't stop there.

They kill beneficial plants, insects — including butterflies, bees, and birds. They can severely injure people and pets. Once applied,

many remain in the home, soil, and garden, causing water pollution and more environmental damage.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PESTICIDES

Insecticides were “discovered” during the development of chemical warfare agents in World War II, proving lethal to insects during the search for killing agents for soldiers. Since then, the chemical industry has developed hundreds of products intended to kill various weeds and insects that we have learned to think of as pests. We often associate pesticides with agriculture, but urban use of pesticides is now 10 times greater, acre for acre, than agricultural use.



PESTICIDES AND HEALTH

Humans exposed to pesticides can develop cancer, sterility, birth defects, asthma, Parkinson's disease, attention deficit disorder, and other nervous system disorders. People with developing or weak immune systems (infants, children, chemically sensitive individuals and the elderly) are susceptible to debilitating health problems caused by these synthetic, neurotoxic chemicals.

That's what we already know. **What we don't yet know may be worse.** Most pesticide research data is provided to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the pesticide industry. Research rarely

focuses on children, and independent health and safety testing is almost nonexistent. The standard for risk versus benefits to the community, by which pesticides are evaluated, is skewed toward the manufacturers, thus allowing wider usage of these products. A better standard is a “precautionary principle” that requires proven product safety before government approval.

Communities are becoming more cautious. For example, a growing list of cities (including Fort Worth and Washington, D.C.) have banned the use of aerial and truck-based pesticide mists to control mosquitoes because of their relative ineffectiveness against mosquitoes and proven harm to humans.

THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN

For their body weight, children have greater exposure than adults to pesticides. And they are more susceptible to their effects. Physiologically, children are not just little adults. For their size, they have more skin surface which is much more absorptive, breathe more air, and consume more liquids and food than an adult. Their metabolism is more rapid. On a daily basis, they have more direct contact than most adults with grass, soil and plants at home and schools, and in play areas, places where pesticides and chemicals are often used.

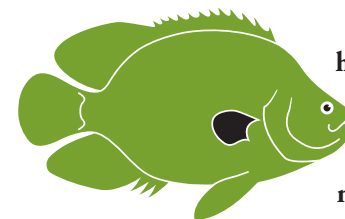


Childhood exposure to pesticides takes place during critical developmental years. Children receive 50% of their lifetime cancer risks in the first two years of life. (EPA) Today's children also have more years to remain exposed to these dangerous chemicals now found in increasing quantities in our environment.

Concern is growing. Texas (through the Texas

Structural Pest Control Act) and about 19 other states now require schools to implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to reduce children's classroom and playground pesticide exposure.

THE HEALTH OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Imagine life without honey, or a field without butterflies.

Pesticides kill insects, birds, and many other beneficial creatures in our ecological

system. Pesticides pollute our water and work their way up the food chain. They have caused fish kills and have been found in fish consumed by humans.

COSTS OF PESTICIDES TO YOU

Marketers of pesticides ignore the indirect impacts of their use and often say pesticides improve food production through the elimination of pests and weeds. But the hidden costs are monumental. What about the safety of our water sources? What about the tragic human and growing financial costs of even one adult with a debilitating lung disease or one child with leukemia?

WHAT TO DO

Protect your family from pesticide injury whenever possible. If you feel you must use a pesticide, choose carefully and minimize your risks when using it.

Practice personal responsibility in your home and local community. Become educated about pesticides and **alternative solutions** to pest problems at home, and in gardens, schools and public places.

Voice your concerns. Visit the web sites listed in this brochure for more information.