

PESTICIDE INFORMATION

AGRO CHEMICALS!

From the beginning of human history through the 1940's, virtually all of the agriculture on earth was sustainable. That is to say, food was grown without the aid of chemicals.

In the late 1940's chemical agriculture was introduced on a wide scale and we were led to believe that the use of chemicals would result in better crops, increased yield and lower input costs. We were also assured that the chemical fertilizers were safe.

Subsequently, we found out that chemical fertilizers were not safe, they upset the natural balance in the soils and destroyed the natural soil microorganisms necessary for healthy plant growth.

After using chemical fertilizers for a few seasons, we experienced significant crop destruction from insect invasion. Again chemicals provided the solution in the form of a pesticide called DDT and again we were assured that this chemical was safe.

After using DDT for a while we discovered that it was not safe but was in fact a powerful cancer-causing substance. In addition, we discovered that the insects that were not killed by the DDT produced offspring that were immune to it.

The simple fact is, many chemicals that are marketed as totally safe for humans are later found to be harmful. For example, EDB (Ethylene dibro-mide) was marketed in the 1950's as an insecticide and a post-harvest fumigant for fruits, vegetables and grains. In 1984, it was banned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to its carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and reproductive toxicity.

Pesticides encompass several different chemical categories. They include herbicides (used to kills weeds), insecticides (used to kill insects), fungicides (used to control molds and fungi), and rodenticides (used to kill rodents).

All pesticides have one thing in common - they are poisons designed to kill things and they have the potential to be harmful to humans if ingested in sufficient amounts.

The long-term disbenefits associated with the use of agricultural chemicals, e.g. resource depletion, environmental damage and health consequences, are such that we need to develop and implement ecologically sound strategies designed to establish and maintain productive soils and prevent the development of pests and diseases and control them in the event of outbreaks

The Bottom Line – we need to learn from our mistakes and begin practicing sustainable agriculture.

WHERE DO AGRO CHEMICALS GO?

People feel ill and don't really know why
birds, fish and animals sicken and die,
streams are polluted, ugly, unclean,
Clear, sparkling water can nowhere be seen.

Poisonous chemicals invade our wells
creating problems, but still the stuff sells.
Now the folks who concoct this toxic brew
surely know of the hazards it poses too.
But love of money, evil and strong
Dulls their conscience to right and wrong.

If only their talents were directed to do
diligent research for something new,
something non-toxic of infinite worth
to stop pollution on our good earth.

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