

PESTICIDES APPLIED TO LAWNS AND GARDENS END UP IN LAKE GEORGE

What happens when hundreds of pounds of pesticides, herbicides or insecticides are regularly applied to a property on Lake George? Many properties throughout the Lake George watershed routinely apply large volumes of such chemicals near shorelines, streams, and wetlands. These chemicals are washed into the lake during rainstorms and contribute to the overall declining water quality of Lake George.

Pesticides are poisons. As stated on the warning labels they indiscriminately poison or kill almost everything. A pesticide is used to kill insects, plant pathogens, weeds, birds, mammals, fish, nematodes (roundworms) and microbes that compete with humans for food, destroy property, are a vector for disease or just seem to be a nuisance.

An insecticide is a pesticide used to kill insects in all developmental forms. Nearly all insecticides have the potential to significantly alter

PESTICIDE ISSUES



Pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides harm plants and animals well beyond target species. These chemicals wash into Lake George and kill aquatic organisms.

ecosystems. Many are toxic to humans and others are concentrated in the food chain.

A herbicide is a pesticide used to kill unwanted plants. Herbicides are available in two main types: selective; and, non-selective. A selective herbicide targets a specific plant. A non-selective herbicide targets all plants. Many herbicides can be toxic to plants a property owner desires to keep as well as to animals and humans.

Active and inert ingredients: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that pesticides are registered in each state and that its label identifies the content and percentage of the Active

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PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

CAUTION

Causes moderate eye irritation. Harmful if swallowed or inhaled. Avoid prolonged contact with skin, eyes or clothing. Prolonged or frequently repeated skin contact may cause allergic skin reactions in some individuals. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling. If product gets on clothes, wash before reuse.

FIRST AID	
IF IN EYES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. • Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye. • Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.
IF SWALLOWED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call a poison control center or doctor immediately for treatment advice. • Have person sip a glass of water if able to swallow. • Do not induce vomiting unless told to do so by a poison control center or doctor. • Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.
IF INHALED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move person to fresh air. • If person is not breathing, call 911 or an ambulance, then give artificial respiration, preferably by mouth-to-mouth, if possible. • Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.

Have the product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor or going for treatment. You may also contact 1-888-208-1368 for emergency medical treatment information.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

The active ingredients in this product are highly toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms including oysters and shrimp. Use with care when applying to areas adjacent to any body of water. Runoff from treated areas may adversely affect aquatic organisms in adjacent aquatic sites. Do not apply directly to water. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment or disposing of equipment washwaters.

Note: label warns that chemical is toxic to fish and aquatic organisms. Avoid use of these chemicals.

Ingredients, yet lists only the percentage of the "Inert" or "Other Ingredients." The inert or other ingredients are not identified on the product label as an "Environmental Hazard or Hazard to Humans and Domestic Animals," but may be harmful to you, your pets or wildlife. Often the inert ingredients are as harmful as the active ingredients.

Wide array of environmental harm: Many lawn care pesticide labels indicate that the Active Ingredients are "highly toxic" or "extremely toxic to aquatic

organisms, aquatic invertebrates and fish." Some products kill honey bees, lady beetles and beneficial insects, for which the label states "Do not apply this product on blooming crops or weeds if bees are visiting the proposed treatment areas." Many products state: "Do not apply this product in a way that will contact any person or pet, either directly or through drift. Keep people and pets out of the area during application." One insecticide/fertilizer regularly used around Lake George includes a label warning that it "...cannot be applied on grass or turf within 100 feet of a lake, stream, river, wetland or drainage ditch in New York State."

The choices we make: The choices landowners make impact Lake George. Properties can be managed to significantly limit impacts to the lake or properties can be managed to intensify impacts to the lake. Heavy use of pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides negatively impacts Lake George.

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