

# Crops Are Drenched with Monsanto Roundup Pesticide Right Before Harvest

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Theme: [Environment](#)

*Roundup Is Dumped On Crops Right BEFORE Harvest ... to Save a Buck*

*Monsanto's Roundup herbicide (technically known as "glyphosate") has been [linked to many diseases](#).*

*However, farmers appear to be dumping it on crops right before harvest.*

Specifically, Monsanto International [published a paper](#) in 2010 touting the application of Roundup to kill crops right before harvest, in order to dry out the crops in advance and produce a more uniform and earlier harvest (starting on page 28):

Benefits of using glyphosate:

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Uneven maturity and green tissue delays harvest. Spraying glyphosate desiccates green foliage & stems. The photograph (below left) shows the uniform dessication of sunflower by the use of glyphosate (Roundup Bioaktiv) applied by helicopter in Hungary (Czepó, 2009a). The photograph (below right) shows complete foliar desiccation of grain maize on the right side 14 days after application of glyphosate (Roundup Bioaktiv) at 0.54kg ae/ ha in 7 0L/ ha applied by helicopter using Reglojet nozzles and including Bandrift Plus at 0.1 % at 34% grain moisture in Hungary, with the untreated visible on the left-hand side.



Lower drying costs

Monsanto trials in Hungary on grain maize and sunflower clearly show the

effect of the use of glyphosate on % grain moisture ....

At harvest glyphosate treated maize had moisture content some 4% lower than untreated maize. Glyphosate treated sunflower seed moisture was 10+%/0 lower than untreated sunflower. Treated grain was at 19 and 7% respectively in these trials.

The requirement to further dry the seed/ grain to 14-16% for stable storage of maize, or 8-10% for sunflower, was thus either reduced or eliminated.

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Earlier harvest to get higher price

Harvest management is an important management technique enabling earlier harvest, particularly important for the 'stay-green' hybrids. Increased levels of 'stay-green' trait may result in such desiccation practice becoming ever more common in sunflowers (Larson et al, 2008). Some commercial trials on grain maize in Hungary, as above, commented on earlier harvest bringing a higher price. Work on sunflower in by North Dakota State University department of Plant Science show that glyphosate brought harvest earlier by 5-10 days (Howatt, 2007). Sunflower harvest was brought forward 2-3 weeks by glyphosate treatment in Hungary (Monsanto, 2009a).

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By bringing harvest date forward 2-3 weeks growers can more often meet the optimum planting date for winter wheat establishment so maximising yield (Czepó, 2009b).

Given that enough Roundup is applied to full-grown plants to completely kill them, much higher quantities of Roundup are obviously being applied than would be required simply to keep away insects (while keeping the plants alive).

Similarly, the plants don't have time to metabolize or otherwise get rid of the Roundup, and there is not time for rains to wash away the Roundup before harvest. Instead, Roundup is dumped on the plants to dry them out, and then they are immediately harvested ... with high levels of Roundup still present.

Big agribusiness may save a buck ... but we may all be paying with our health.

*H/t Dr. Stephanie Seneff.*

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