

In New Round of Tests, Monsanto's Weedkiller Still Contaminates Foods Marketed to Children

Latest Findings Come as Courts Levy More Than \$2B in Judgments Against Bayer-Monsanto Over Cancer-Causing Glyphosate

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Major food companies like General Mills continue to sell popular children's breakfast cereals and other foods contaminated with troubling levels of glyphosate, the cancer-causing ingredient in the herbicide Roundup.

The weedkiller, produced by Bayer-Monsanto, was detected in all 21 oat-based cereal and snack products sampled in a new round of testing commissioned by the Environmental Working Group. All but four products contained levels of glyphosate higher than what [EWG scientists consider protective for children's health](#) with a sufficient margin of safety.

The new tests confirm and amplify EWG's findings from tests in July and October of last year, with levels of glyphosate consistently above EWG's children's health benchmark. The two highest levels of glyphosate were found in Honey Nut Cheerios Medley Crunch, with 833 parts per billion, or ppb, and Cheerios, with 729 ppb. The EWG children's health benchmark is 160 ppb.

Product Type	Variety	Glyphosate (ppb)
Oat breakfast cereal	Honey Nut Cheerios	147
Oat breakfast cereal	Cheerios Toasted Whole Grain Oat Cereal	729
Oat breakfast cereal	Chocolate Peanut Butter Cheerios	400
Oat breakfast cereal	Cheerios Oat Crunch Cinnamon	283
Oat breakfast cereal	Honey Nut Cheerios Medley Crunch	833
Oat breakfast cereal	Multi Grain Cheerios	216
Oat breakfast cereal	Nature Valley Baked Oat Bites	389
Granola	Nature Valley Granola Peanut Butter Creamy & Crunchy	198
Granola	Nature Valley Granola Protein Oats n Dark Chocolate	261
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Fruit & Nut Chewy Trail Mix Granola Bars, Dark Chocolate & Nut	76
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Fruit & Nut Chewy Trail Mix Granola Bars, Dark Chocolate Cherry	275
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Sweet & Salty Nut granola bars, Cashew	158
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Crunchy granola bars, Oats and Honey	320
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Crunchy granola bars, Peanut Butter	312
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Crunchy granola bars, Maple Brown Sugar	566
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Soft-Baked Oatmeal Squares, Blueberry	206
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Soft-Baked Oatmeal Squares, Cinnamon Brown Sugar	124
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Granola Cups, Almond Butter	529
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Granola Cups, Peanut Butter Chocolate	297
Snack or snack bar	Nature Valley Biscuits with Almond Butter	194
Snack or snack bar	Fiber One Oatmeal Raisin soft-baked cookies	204

Source: EWG, from tests in May 2019

EWG purchased products via online retail sites. Approximately 300 grams of each product were packed in our Washington, D.C., office and shipped to Anresco Laboratories in San Francisco. Glyphosate levels were analyzed by a liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry method described [here](#).

Since 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a part of the World Health Organization, has classified glyphosate as “[probably carcinogenic to humans](#).” In 2017, glyphosate was classified as a [known carcinogen](#) by California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

Since last August, three California juries have awarded more than \$2.2 billion total in three separate verdicts against Bayer-Monsanto over claims that Roundup caused cancer and that Monsanto knew about the risks for decades and went to extraordinary lengths to cover it up.

Glyphosate is used mostly as a weedkiller on genetically modified corn and soybeans. But it is also sprayed on oats just before harvest as a drying agent, or desiccant. It kills the crop, drying it out so it can be harvested sooner, which increases the likelihood that glyphosate ends up in foods children love to eat.

[EWG and 19 food companies](#) recently delivered more than 80,000 names on a petition urging the Environmental Protection Agency to sharply limit glyphosate residues allowed on oats and prohibit its use as a preharvest drying agent.

All but one of the tested products contained glyphosate at levels higher than what EPA previously allowed on oats, in 1993. EWG's petition, [currently under consideration by EPA](#), calls on the agency to return to its health-protective 1993 standard. But it could take years for EPA to act, and the agency has been caught [colluding with Monsanto](#) to promote the claim that the chemical is safe.

The only way to quickly remove this cancer-causing weedkiller from foods marketed to children is for companies like General Mills and Quaker to use oats from farmers who do not use glyphosate as a desiccant.

More than 236,000 people have signed a [petition](#) directed at these food companies, calling on them to take action to protect consumers' health.

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