

## ‘Stop farmers from being a science experiment; Get glyphosate off the market’

The issues surrounding G.M.O.s — genetically modified organisms — have never been simple. They became more complicated last week when the International Agency for Research on Cancer [declared](#) that glyphosate, the active ingredient in the widely used herbicide Roundup, probably causes cancer in humans.

Roundup, made by Monsanto for both home and commercial use, [is crucial in the production](#) of genetically engineered corn and soybean crops, so it was notable that the verdict on its dangers came nearly simultaneously with an announcement by the Food and Drug Administration that new breeds of genetically engineered potato and apple are [safe to eat](#). Which they probably are, as are the genetically engineered papayas we’ve been eating for some time. In fact, to date [there’s little credible evidence](#) that any food grown with genetic engineering techniques is dangerous to human health — unless, like much corn and soybeans, it’s turned into junk food. But, really, let’s be fair.

Fair, too, is a guess that few people are surprised that an herbicide in widespread use is probably toxic at high doses or with prolonged exposure, circumstances that may be common among farmers and farmworkers. There is a sad history of us acting as guinea pigs for the novel chemicals that industry develops. For this we have all too often paid with our damaged health.

We don’t need better, smarter chemicals along with crops that can tolerate them; we need fewer chemicals.

Meanwhile, how about getting glyphosate off the market until Monsanto can prove that it’s safe to use? There’s no reason to put the general population, and particularly the farming population, at risk for the sake of industry profits.

**Read full, original article:** [Stop Making Us Guinea Pigs](#)