

Aerial eradication through Plan Colombia

The herbicide used in Colombia contains glyphosate, a broad spectrum pesticide that kills any type of crop. It also contains the surfactant POEA. Research shows it is a hazard to the environment, wildlife and human health. In the US this mixture is called Roundup.

POEA

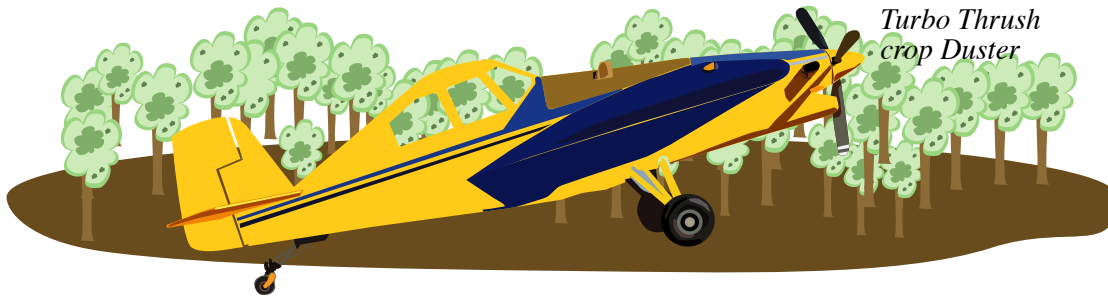
- * POEA, an inert ingredient added to glyphosate, helps the herbicide penetrate into the plant leaves.
- * Herbicides often contain an active ingredient plus additional chemicals that are referred to as "inerts."
- * Inert in this context refers to everything other than the active ingredient. "Inerts" can be more toxic to humans and wildlife than the active ingredient



Leopard frog

A number of studies have documented toxic effects of Roundup in amphibians, including causing genetic damage and disrupting normal development.

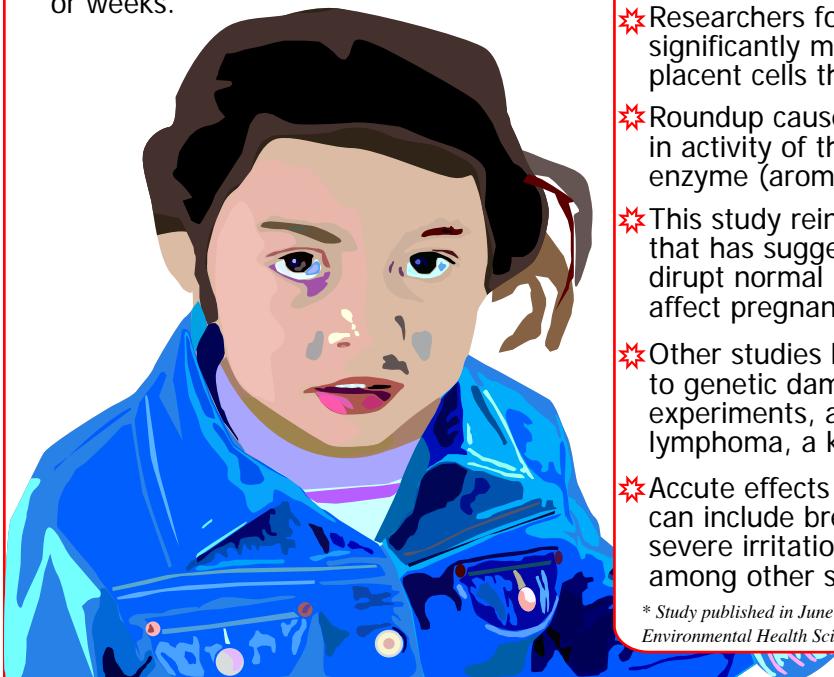
The aerial eradication program has sprayed over 1.3 million acres of Colombian farm, range and forest land with this herbicide mixture.



*Turbo Thrush
crop Duster*

How Roundup works

- * Absorbed into the plant mainly through its leaves.
- * It is then transported throughout the plant.
- * Plants slowly die over a period of days or weeks.



Health Effects*

- * Researchers found that Roundup was significantly more toxic to human placental cells than Glyphosate.
- * Roundup caused significant decrease in activity of the sex hormone enzyme (aromatase) production.
- * This study reinforces other research that has suggested Roundup can disrupt normal hormone functions and affect pregnancies.
- * Other studies have linked Roundup to genetic damage in laboratory experiments, and to non-Hodgkins lymphoma, a kind of cancer.
- * Acute effects of Roundup exposure can include breathing problems and severe irritation of the eyes and skin, among other symptoms.

* Study published in June 2005 by National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences