

Monsanto, USA

Responses To Questions Raised And Statements Made By Environmental/Consumer Groups And Other Critics Of Biotechnology And Roundup Ready® Soybeans

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Introduction

A few environmental groups and anti-biotechnology activists have raised a number of questions about Roundup Ready soybeans, glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup® brand herbicides) and the regulatory systems that have approved and registered their use. To set the record straight and provide facts for interested people around the world, we examine the critic's statements one by one, in many cases responding to their language, for proper context.

[...]

Critic's Statement: *Monsanto also claims that glyphosate is considered to be a herbicide with low risk for weed resistance. However, Monsanto itself notes that one important factor contributing to resistant weeds is frequent applications without crop or herbicide rotations. Yet no-till, single-herbicide monoculture is precisely what Roundup Ready soybeans are meant to encourage.*

- There has not been a verified case of weed resistance developing in the field as a result of Roundup being sprayed. Monsanto receives reports occasionally that speculate on resistance, and we always follow-up to understand any new developments. The mode of action unique to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, plus the herbicide's lack of soil residual activity, have made it unlikely that resistant plants will appear over time in a weed population.
- Although Monsanto does promote a no-till system to be used in conjunction with Roundup herbicide and Roundup Ready crops, this system is meant to conserve soil moisture and topsoil, an agronomic benefit that exists outside of Roundup Ready crops and their use.
- In fact, Monsanto supplies much grower information to those farmers who purchase Roundup Ready soybeans and other modified crops. This information includes recommendations for crop rotation sequences (not monoculture), and it also provides guidelines for managing any Roundup Ready volunteers in following crops.
- The need to manage crop rotations, soil tillage, and herbicide rotations is no different with Roundup Ready crops than with any other crops. Farmers are accustomed to minimum-tillage and soil-conservation practices which involve crop rotations. These rotations are no less necessary with Roundup Ready crops and Monsanto will recommend continuation of these practices with Roundup Ready and other modified crops.

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http://web.archive.org/web/20000816095625/http://www.monsanto/mediacenter/background/97apr21_Responses.html
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