



Crop  
PROTECTION

# Crop Protection

## Courts weigh in, science stands firm on glyphosate

**A recent Federal Court verdict that glyphosate is not carcinogenic reflects what science and independent expert assessment has confirmed for decades. Glyphosate is safe to use. It also confirms the appropriateness of the independent science-based regulatory system overseen by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).**

Australia is fortunate to have a regulatory system based on risk-based assessment of scientific data rather than assuming that one thing causes another merely because the first thing preceded the other. Maintaining this system and independent approach is crucial to ensuring that investment continues to bolster R&D programs that are essential to solving some of the world's most important problems.

Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide used around the world for 50 years, which has revolutionised sustainable farming practices because of how effective and safe it is. As a result, it is one of the most important and thoroughly assessed pesticides in the world.

As part of its mandate, the APVMA continues to amass decades of global literature on the subject. Since the start of 2023, it has assessed 600 newly published studies on glyphosate. This is part of the 5,300 peer-reviewed articles and datasets that support continued registration, any one of which could have either triggered a full review, or a cancellation of the chemical if there were any plausible risk to farmers, consumers, or the environment.

Most recently the New Zealand Environmental Protection Agency in July 2024 reached the same conclusion as the EU decision of July 2023, when glyphosate was re-approved in Europe. Both regulators 'did not identify any critical areas of concern' impacting public health or the environment.

Aside from this overwhelming amount of scientific data, there are decades of lived experience documented in the US Agricultural Health Study, which reinforces the reams of smaller studies, and is arguably the most robust evidence that glyphosate is safe. Since 1993 the US study has followed over 57,000 farmers and licensed pesticide applicators and confirmed that there is no association between glyphosate use and cancer of any kind.

**The decision of the APVMA is consistent with that of its global peers**

