

**From:** Robyn Stone <robyn@yavnehdayschool.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 10:14 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am deeply concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets and the impact it has on life in California and the US.

Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds. Monsanto's seeds are genetically modified be resistant to the pesticide Roundup--a pesticide Monsanto manufactures. "Roundup Ready" seeds are sewn by the majority of conventional farms of certain crops. So, one firm--Monsanto-- is both providing seeds and the pesticides which farmers must use in order to grow their crops.

"Conventional" foods may contain a variety of genetically modified ingredients and lots of chemical pesticides. Yet, there aren't decent labels telling you where ingredients were grown, what chemicals are on them, and if they are genetically modified. Why not?

Foods full of chemicals are bad for my family. Chemical build-up in humans leads to increases in cancer and other public health issues. The chemical pesticides used on foods are terrible for the environment, pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security. And, food isn't the only point of human exposure to these toxins.

Monsanto offers its poisonous pesticide products to cities in California for pennies on the gallon. Los Gatos, CA Public Parks & Works Director Todd Capruso informed me that it is cheaper for the Town to spray Roundup along the Los Gatos Creek trail than to hire workers to mow grass and weeds there twice a year. Roundup is sprayed like water all over the town of Los Gatos--from the grounds of public school Blossom Hill Elementary to the manicured lawn of Oak Meadow Park.

I am deeply concerned for the high level of exposure my child has to Monsanto's product Roundup--whether at school, at the park, or in his food. Please investigate the Monsanto Corporation for putting corporate greed ahead of public health and safety.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Robyn Stone

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