

# INDUSTRY TASK FORCE II ON 2,4-D RESEARCH DATA

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## NEWS RELEASE

### EC REGULATORY RULING AND EXPERT REVIEWS CLEAR THE HERBICIDE 2,4-D

**Swansboro, NC, September 26** – The Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data today released the most recent review of current scientific evidence pertaining to the human health effects of the herbicide 2,4-D.

The Task Force commissioned the comprehensive review by Dr. David H. Garabrant and Dr. Martin A. Philbert of the University of Michigan School of Public Health of the current evidence on human toxicity and cancer risks related to the exposure of 2,4-D. Introduced in Canada in 1947, 2,4-D is a widely used agricultural herbicide for application on cereal crops such as wheat and barley and is also the most common active ingredient contained in lawn care products used to control weeds.

After reviewing more than 160 recent toxicologic and epidemiologic studies Drs. Garabrant and Philbert concluded:

***“Despite several thorough in vitro and in vivo animal studies, no experimental evidence exists supporting the theory that 2,4-D or any of its salts and esters damages DNA under physiologic conditions. Studies in rodents demonstrate a lack of oncogenic or carcinogenic effects following lifetime dietary administration of 2,4-D. Epidemiologic studies provide scant evidence that exposure to 2,4-D is associated with soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease, or any other cancer. Overall, the available evidence from epidemiologic studies is not adequate to conclude that any form of cancer is causally associated with 2,4-D exposure.”***

The review is published in the current edition of Critical Reviews in Toxicology. [\[http://www.crcjournals.com/eJournals/articles/article\\_synopsis.asp?id=38589\]](http://www.crcjournals.com/eJournals/articles/article_synopsis.asp?id=38589)

Since 1986, more than a dozen government and independent expert panels, including the Canadian Centre for Toxicology review conducted for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, World Health Organization and European Commission, have concluded that 2,4-D does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment when used according to label instructions.

“The decisions of regulatory agencies and several expert panel reviews simply do not support the allegations that 2,4-D causes cancer or poses an unreasonable risk to human health”, stated Donald Page, Executive Director of the Task Force. “It is unfortunate that the those who wish to ban the use of pesticides continue to trade on fear and half truths to advance their interests and confuse the Canadian public.”

Pesticides are regulated by federal and provincial statute and cannot be sold without extensive evaluation and subsequent federal approval. Under the Pest Control Products Act, only those products that do not pose a hazard to human health or the environment are approved for sale and use in Canada.

Additional information may be obtained toll-free: 1-800-345-5109, [www.24d.org](http://www.24d.org) or email: [donpage@24d.org](mailto:donpage@24d.org).