



\*\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*\*

## Experts Discuss Lawn Pesticide DANGERS and ALTERNATIVES

### 20 Consumer and Environmental Groups Ask Home Depot and Lowe's to Supply Poison-Free Products for Lawns and Landscapes

**Washington, D.C. – April 11, 2005.** Medical and scientific experts will discuss the dangers lawn pesticides pose to children, pets, and wildlife and the economic and aesthetic feasibility, for both homeowners and landscapers, of creating non-toxic lawns and landscapes. Fourteen of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides are 'probable' or 'possible' carcinogens with studies linked to cancer. The National Coalition for Pesticide-Free Lawns, a growing popular movement of consumer and environmental groups, call on Home Depot and Lowe's Home Improvement to carry a full range of organic, non-toxic lawn care products and to reconsider the sale of "weed and feed" due to its hazards and environmental pollution. Recent surveys show almost half of all households buying lawn care products are seeking non-toxic alternatives. The letter follows on the heels of a new million-dollar public relations campaign by the lawn chemical industry that public interest groups say misleads consumers and landscapers on the need for toxic pesticides.

- Who:** **Routt Reigart, M.D.**, Pediatrician, Medical University of South Carolina  
**Warren Porter, Ph.D.**, Environmental Toxicology, Univ. of Wisconsin  
**Steve Sheffield, Ph.D.**, Wildlife Toxicology, Virginia Tech (VPI&SU)  
**Steven Zien**, Landscaper, Owner, Living Resources Company  
**Jay Feldman**, executive director, Beyond Pesticides
- What:** **Experts Discuss the DANGERS of and ALTERNATIVES to Chemical Lawn Pesticides**
- When:** **Wednesday, April 13, 2005**  
**1:00 p.m. eastern standard time**
- Where:** **National Press Conference Call**  
**1-800-640-4707**  
**Conf ID# 5486360 Poison-Free Lawns**

**For more information contact Brad DeVries, Defenders of Wildlife 202-772-0237**

*Beyond Pesticides is a national grassroots non-profit organization advocating for national, state and local pesticide reform and alternatives. Defenders of Wildlife is one of the nation's most progressive advocates for wildlife and habitat with more than 480,000 members and supporters.*