



Meeting Existential Challenges

Empowering Action for Change with Science

This issue of *Pesticides and You*, a compendium of scientific research on pesticide threats to human and environmental health, is a breathtaking warning from the science community that our laws are not protecting us and a shift away from toxic pesticide use is urgently needed.

Included in this issue are scientific reviews of research reported by Beyond Pesticides in 2023, providing a critique of the independent peer reviewed literature with a shocking range of adverse effects, including cancer, neurotoxicity, brain effects, reproductive impacts, diabetes and obesity, chronic kidney and liver disease, Parkinson's, respiratory illness and asthma, learning and behavioral abnormalities, and more, as well as disproportionate harm to people of color. In addition, the science documents pesticides' catastrophic harm to the ecosystems that sustain life. In total, these dramatic findings call for an end to the use of toxic pesticides, incompatible with respect for living organisms and unconscionable given the availability of viable, cost-effective organic practices.

This issue adds to the body of knowledge from two previous issues of *Pesticides and You* (*Transformative Change: Informed by Science, Policy, and Action*, and *Retrospective 2021: A Call to Urgent Action*) with scientific warnings that keep getting louder.

The abject failure of the law and regulations to respond to the scientific warnings on these pages has contributed to existential crises, including severe health threats, biodiversity collapse, and the climate emergency—and calls for holistic solutions, rather than piecemeal approaches focused on individual chemical restrictions. In this context, articles about organic land management and crop production practices that are ecosystem compatible inform the path forward.

The findings and citations in this issue are supplemented by Beyond Pesticides' *Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database* and other documentation housed on the organization's website. All links to reference material, highlighted in blue text, are available in the electronic version of this issue.

ABOUT THE COVER

We designed the cover of this issue to capture the eyes of living beings, representing all life on the planet, who are watching to see that we as a nation and with the global community take the necessary steps to urgently end our dependency on petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers—which contribute to health threats, biodiversity collapse, and the climate emergency—and transition to regenerative organic practices. For our livable future...

Jay Feldman and Jocelyn Cordell

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