

MicroLife™

ORGANIC BIOLOGICAL FERTILIZERS

Healthy Soils
Healthy Plants
Healthy People
VOL 9. | SPRING
Love Mother Nature

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WEEDS OR LAWN HERBS? BY MIKE SERANT



Perception is reality. We have been led to believe that weeds are terrible enemies that must be destroyed. Hmmmm, who profits from this idea? Ah yes, the companies that make chemical herbicides.

Two very important facts:

1.) All chemical pesticides weaken the human immune system

2.) All chemical herbicides are dangerous to all plants. They are poisons that kill or weaken all life forms, including children pets and beneficial microbes.

The worst of the chemical herbicides are the 'Weed & Feed' fertilizers. Sounds awesome doesn't it. Fertilize the lawn and get rid of weeds. But let's look behind the curtain. They are not fertilizers but EPA registered pesticides on a fertilizer carrier. We are told to apply them all over the lawn because you never know where the irksome weed may appear.

Yes, go ahead and poison your entire lawn, your kids and pets won't be out there anyway, right? And you probably never want to walk in your grass either.

Let's dig deeper and look at their cautionary statement *'Do not apply around trees or shrubs because it may cause them harm'*. Haha! As if trees and shrubs stop growing their underground roots at the lawn edges. All competent arborists worth their salt hate 'Weed and Feed' fertilizers for the damage they do to the most valuable part of any landscapes, the trees.

Chemical Herbicides & Chemical Fertilizers Push Weed Growth



The fertilizer is used as a carrier for the herbicide and it's always the rot-gut salts that kill beneficial microbes, compact the soil and starve the plants of essential nutrients.



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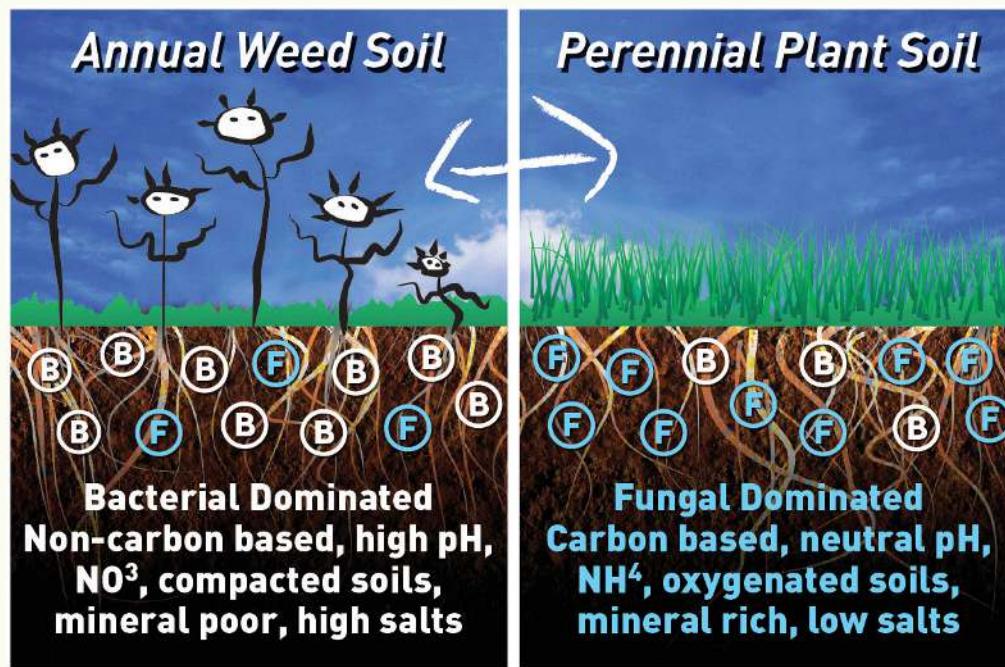
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WEEDS OR LAWN HERBS?

BY MIKE SERANT



By applying chemical herbicides, you have weakened the soil and created what we call 'weedy soil'. **Mother Nature in her infinite wisdom always wants her skin covered with plants**, so if the soil is poor, she will select a plant that grows best in those conditions with the goal of improving the soil for the higher order perennial plants like turfgrass, shrubs and trees.



A much better way to deal with 'weeds' is first to **re-brand them as 'Lawn Herbs'** as weeds has a bad connotation. That shifts the mind from enemy to friend. All plants, including what we call weeds, have a purpose. Some are edible, some are medicinal, & all improve soils by breaking up compaction and mining minerals for other plants to use.



We have an easy read manual called **Organic Weed Control**, that can be found here, www.microlifefertilizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Organic-Weed-Control.pdf.

This will quickly explain Organic and Biological ways to reduce weed pressure without spraying poisons.

For lawns, be sure to cut your grass high and do not over-water. Take a look at this award-winning sports field, no chemical herbicides used, pretty impressive and it is perfectly safe for the kids to play on.

Great Organic Turf



And, hey, if you've got to hand pull a few weeds, just call it free horticulture therapy!

Mike

Mike Serant
Owner & Manufacturer of MicroLife



THE 20 ANIMAL SPECIES THAT COULD REWILD THE WORLD

BY TODD WOODY

BLOOMBERG.COM



Reintroducing mammals like gazelles, tigers and bears to their former habitats would boost biodiversity and help the landscape store more carbon, new research finds.

Reintroducing just **20 large mammal species to their historic habitats could boost biodiversity** across a broad swathe of the planet while helping to stabilize the climate, according to a new study.

“Solving the biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis is not only necessary, they’re mutually reinforcing,” said Carly Vynne, a conservation biologist and lead author of the paper published Jan. 27 in the journal Ecography.

That’s because biodiverse ecosystems are both more resilient to climate change and store more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, research has shown. Yet climate change is exacerbating what some scientists call “the sixth great extinction.” The United Nations in 2019 warned that “nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history” with a million species at risk of vanishing.

Predators and other large animals are landscape architects, influencing the growth of carbon dioxide-absorbing vegetation. Scientists have documented, for instance, how the return of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park in 1995 reshaped the ecosystem by keeping plant-munching elk populations in check. That has allowed willows and other trees to flourish, resulting in growing numbers of beaver and bison.

“Large herds of mammals are themselves also carbon storage basins,” said Vynne.

Scientists have calculated that restoring densities of predators worldwide could result in landscape changes that could sequester 23 gigatons of atmospheric carbon.



From 298 Species to 20 Vynne and a team of researchers identified 298 large mammal species & their ranges, analyzing satellite data to determine the presence of suitable habitat in 730 terrestrial ecoregions. An ecoregion is a conservation planning tool that identifies similar plant and animal communities in a particular area.

THE 20 ANIMAL SPECIES THAT COULD REWILD THE WORLD

BY TODD WOODY | BLOOMBERG.COM

The scientists then focused on ecoregions that were missing just one to three large mammal species that historically had occupied more than 80% of the area, reasoning it would be feasible to reintroduce those animals within five to 10 years.

They whittled down the list of large mammals to the 20 that would have the most impact, triggering the complete restoration of large animal clusters over 54% of the world's landmass.

Seven of the species are predators, such as jaguars, wolverines and cougars, and 13 are herbivores such as pampas deer, hippopotamuses and gazelles. The animals are found on five continents and reintroducing them would expand the range of nine threatened species, according to the study.

Bringing back the Eurasian beaver, European bison, reindeer and wolf to Europe, for instance, could dramatically expand the range of complete collections of large animals.

Predator Problems

Reintroducing predators, though, can be politically fraught. The return of the gray wolf in the United States has led to decades of conflict over the predators' killing of livestock.



Wildlife ecologist Euan Ritchie, a professor at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, who was not involved in the research, said the paper's prioritization of animals to reintroduce was valuable. "I think it's really important to be aware of where there are gains to be potentially had in bringing species back."

However, restoring animals long gone from an ecosystem is challenging. "There's a number of complexities when you're talking about large carnivores in particular," said Ritchie. "They need suitable prey so you might need to restore prey as well as predator populations at the same time."

Predators also roam over large territories and may cross local and national borders, requiring cooperation among governments and landowners.

"It's definitely not a case of just grabbing some large carnivores or herbivores and plugging them back into the ecosystem," said Ritchie. "There's a lot of thought that will need to go into this."

READ FULL ARTICLE HERE:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-04/how-reintroducing-these-20-animals-could-boost-biodiversity-stabilize-climate>

SPRING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Perfect Color Program *It's Easy as 1-2-3!*

1 MicroLife
Ultimate 8-4-6



Most complete, nutritious,
non-burning color fertilizer ever!

2 MicroGro
Bio-Inoculant



Prevents diseases that
plague color plants

3 MicroLife Max
Blooms 3-8-3



Organic Foliar spray for
popping flowers

Spring Lawn & Shrub Success

*Choose one of these
for fantastic results:*

MicroLife
Multi-Purpose 6-2-4



MicroLife
Hybrid 20-0-5



-OR-

*For Extra Lawn
& Shrub Love:*

MicroLife
Humates
Plus 0-0-4



Great for keeping your lawn
green & shrubs healthy

Fast acting, soil building
& inexpensive

Outstanding soil improver,
beneficial for all soil types

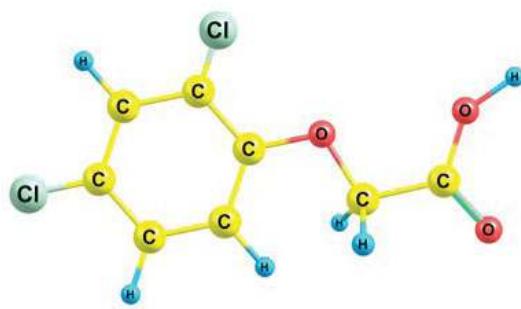
ONE IN THREE AMERICANS HAVE DETECTABLE LEVELS OF TOXIC WEEDKILLER, STUDY FINDS

NINA LAKHANI, NEW YORK | THE GUARDIAN

Human exposure to 2,4-D has substantially risen despite a multitude of health & environmental concerns

One in three people across America have detectable levels of a toxic herbicide linked to cancers, birth defects & hormonal imbalances, a major 2022 nationwide survey has found.

Human exposure to the herbicide 2,4-D has substantially risen amid expanding use among farmers despite a multitude of health and environmental concerns, according to the first nationally representative study evaluating the footprint of the chemical.



The herbicide was developed in the mid-1940s and quickly became the go-to weedkiller for farmers focused on increasing crop yields, while also gaining popularity among gardeners looking for a pristine lawn.

Its popularity dipped in favor of Roundup (glyphosate) and genetically modified cotton and soyabeans resistant to this herbicide, but it has seen a resurgence since the spread of Roundup-resistant weeds.



2,4-D is currently riding high thanks to this Whac-a-Mole approach to pest control in industrialized farming, with about 600 US agricultural and residential products now containing the chemical which can be ingested through the skin, mouth and nose.

Researchers from George Washington university examined the urine samples of 14,395 people (aged six and older) from all walks of life who take part in the annual National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. They looked for biomarkers to the pesticide, and compared the exposure levels detected with the use of 2,4-D from 2001 until 2014.

As the pesticide grew in popularity among farmers and gardeners, so did evidence of human exposure, rising from a low of 17% in 2001-02 to a high of almost 40% a decade later.

Exposure to high levels of 2,4-D, an ingredient of Agent Orange used against civilians during the Vietnam war, has been linked to cancers including leukemia in children, birth defects & reproductive problems among other health issues.

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While little is known about the impact of low-level exposure to the herbicide, it does disrupt the endocrine system – a network of glands that make hormones which control growth and development, reproduction, metabolism and our organs and moods.

The study, published online in Environmental Health, found exposure was not uniform, with several subgroups including children aged six to 11 and women of childbearing age showing substantially higher levels of 2,4-D in their urine. Exposure to toxins is often more detrimental during developmental or key growth periods like pregnancy and early childhood.

“Further study must determine how rising exposure to 2,4-D affects human health—especially when exposure occurs early in life,” said Melissa Perry, professor of environmental & occupational health and senior author of the paper.

“Children and other vulnerable groups are also increasingly exposed to other pesticides and these chemicals may act synergistically to produce health problems.”

The study also found that Black participants, who multiple previous studies have shown to have higher exposure to all sorts of environmental pollutants, showed signs of lower exposure to the weedkiller than white Americans. This may be a result of historic racist policies restricting access to homes with gardens and green spaces for Black communities, the researchers argue.

Overall, the amount of 2,4-D applied in agriculture increased 67% between 2012 and 2020, but its use will almost certainly grow sharply over the next decade due to the widespread use of the controversial weedkiller Enlist Duo – a relatively newly approved combo (2,4-D and glyphosate) for genetically modified crops. This will make both toxins – which are both banned in some countries – increasingly difficult to avoid.

“Our study suggests human exposures to 2,4-D have gone up significantly and they are predicted to rise even more in the future,” Marlaina Freisthler, a PhD student and co-author of the study. “Given the potential for human and environmental health impacts of such widespread exposures, we believe increases in use and exposures are not the direction to be going.”

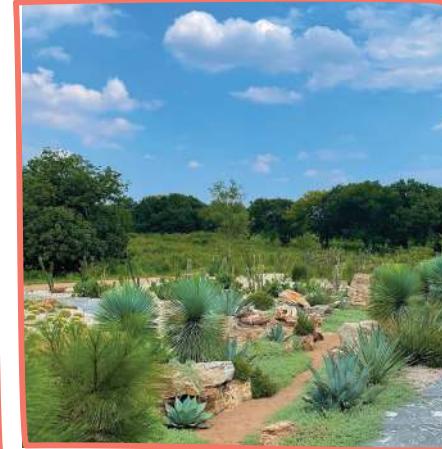
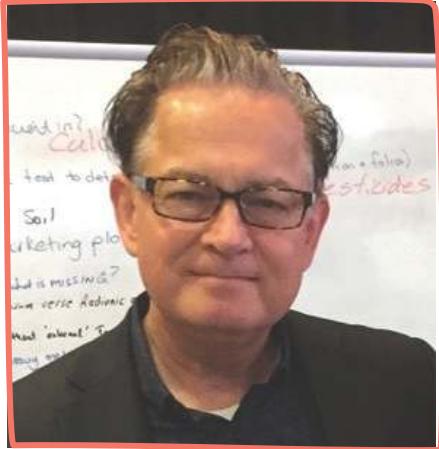
READ FULL ARTICLE HERE:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/09/toxic-herbicide-exposure-study-2-4-d>



THE GREAT ORGANIC REVOLUTION IS TAKING OVER!

Get your OHBA event tickets before they sell out & be a part of this awesome grass roots movement.

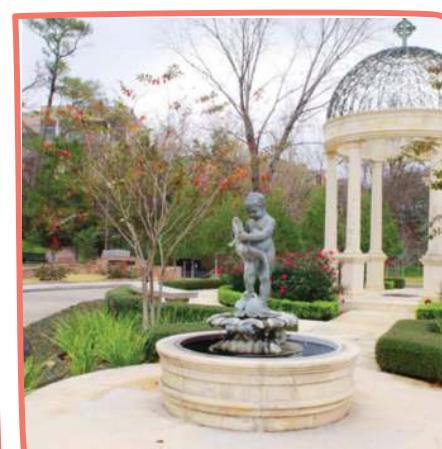


MAY 25

How To Keep Yourself Healthy in Today's World
Dr. Arden Andersen

JUNE 17

Spanish Language Organic Seminar
Houston Botanic Gardens



AUGUST 6

Organic Workshop & Fair
United Way of
Greater Houston

OCTOBER 28

Halloween Organic Cemetery Tour
Glenwood Cemetery

Learn more about OHBA & upcoming events at ohbaonline.org

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