Five commonly used pesticides that may be carcinogenic

This month, the media has been abuzz with news about glyphosate, the active ingredient in **Roundup** weed control, as a likely carcinogen, dangerous to pets and people alike. A World Health Organization agency declared that the herbicide has the potential to cause cancer in humans, which has gotten more people thinking about the safety (or lack thereof!) of common chemical pesticides.

1. GLYPHOSATE

The World Health Organization research agency cited studies of people exposed to glyphosate, a weed killer, in the US, Canada and Sweden and found "increased risks for non-Hodgkin lymphoma." This was the first time the agency identified this chemical as a possible carcinogen, which is a pretty big deal considering it's the most-used herbicide in the country. GMO soybeans and corn can withstand higher uses of the pesticide, so farmers have been using more and more of the product in recent years. (WIKIPEDIA)

2. MALATHION

- for insect control in agriculture and in residential homes.
- People can be exposed from using the chemical directly or from eating food that's been grown with the pesticide. Studies dating back over a decade have hinted that this chemical could possibly cause cancer
- (WIKIPEDIA)

DIAZINON

- Restricted in both the US and Europe
- Commonly found in pesticides to control aphids
- studies conducted as far back as the 90s have shown correlation between parental use of diazinon and brain cancer in children.
- This website paints a grim picture - http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/Diazgen.html

4. TETRACHLORVINPHOS

- a cancer-causing effect in animals, originally used against ticks and fleas for pets and farm animals
- registered for use in the United States in 1966. Banned in EU.
- been given a slightly stronger designation as a possible carcinogen. (WIKIPEDIA)

5. PARATHION

- banned or restricted for use as an insecticide in Europe and the us since 2003
- designated as a more likely carcinogen like tetrachlorvinphos (WIKIPEDIA)

6. COPPER SULPHATE

One study looked at long-term work-related exposures to copper sulphate and found an increased risk of kidney cancer. Another study found that decreasing copper can inhibit cancer growth. Animal studies have provided conflicting results.

The effects of copper sulphate on birds, fish, or other wildlife?

The U.S. EPA considers copper to be practically nontoxic to bees and moderately toxic to birds. Studies with several aquatic species have found copper to be highly to very highly toxic to fish and aquatic life. Trout, koi and juvenile fish of several species are known to be particularly sensitive to copper.

Fish kills have been reported after copper sulphate applications for algae control in ponds and lakes. Oxygen depletion and increased debris have been cited as the cause of most fish deaths. This is sometimes due to the sudden death and decay of algae and plants after an application. Even small concentrations of copper can be harmful to fish and water organisms.
http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/cuso4gen.html#cancer

NB. **Children may be especially sensitive to pesticides**