



THOROUGHLY REVIEWED AND TESTED FOR USE



Pesticide products used to control insects, weeds and diseases have been thoroughly tested for effects on the health of people, pets and the environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the primary federal agency regulating pesticides, requires that such products undergo some 120 health, safety and environmental tests to assure that they do not cause undue harm.



EPA's tests evaluate the pesticide's potential to adversely affect humans, animals and the environment. Special attention is given to the pesticide's possible effects on humans with extra requirements for protecting children's health. It is a scientific process that takes an average of nine years.



In addition to regulating new pesticides, EPA must monitor on an ongoing basis and evaluate human, animal and environmental effects from registered pesticides to ensure that products already on the market meet current scientific and regulatory standards.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ★ **GET** all the facts about how healthy grass contributes to athlete's safety on the field.
- ★ **CHECK** to make sure children's playing fields are not full of weeds, holes or ruts that might cause kids to fall or trip during practice or a game.
- ★ **LEARN** how pesticides and fertilizer can be part of a balanced approach to maintaining sports fields through a program called integrated pest management – IPM – which includes the judicious and prescriptive use of federally and state registered pesticides. These registrations mean that pesticides have been thoroughly tested and proven to pose no adverse health risks to children when used in accordance with label directions.
- ★ **DON'T** let emotions or fears based on false and misleading information form the basis for new and unnecessary laws.
- ★ **LET** local and state officials know you are in favor of keeping the safe and responsible use of pesticides as an option for pests that can pose a risk to the health of our playing fields and the safety of children.



EVERY
ATHLETE
DESERVES
A SOFT
LANDING





IN THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE WORLD OF YOUNG BALL PLAYERS, SOCCER STARS, FOOTBALL HEROES AND OTHER OUTDOOR ATHLETES, FALLING TO THE GROUND IS JUST PART OF THE SPORT.

WHEN KIDS TAKE A DIVE FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME, IT IS GRASS THAT CUSHIONS THEIR FALLS AND ASSURES A SOFT LANDING.



HEALTHY GRASS PROVIDES A CARPET-LIKE PLAYING SURFACE THAT HELPS PREVENT SPORTS-RELATED INJURIES TO CHILDREN ON THE FIELD. GRASS HELPS BREAK THOSE FALLS SO YOUNG ATHLETES CAN GET BACK UP AND STAY IN THE GAME.



GRASS DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN.



Growing and maintaining healthy grass requires watering, mowing and when needed, the responsible use of pesticides. Herbicides control weeds kids can slip on or trip over, insecticides protect against disease-carrying and stinging insects, and fungicides stop plant diseases that damage grass. Fertilizers are also needed to provide vital nutrients.

Anti-pesticide groups propose that sports fields can be effectively maintained using non-chemical or organic control options. These methods are costly and in many cases impractical because they require extensive manual labor.

Unfortunately, healthy grass for sports fields may soon become more costly and difficult to maintain. Some individuals and groups want to ban the use of pesticides on sports fields, playgrounds, parks and lawns, and promote non-pesticide alternatives that are usually ineffective and costly.

To promote their beliefs and raise money for their cause, activists make unproven claims backed by speculative reports that declare grass and lawn care products cause almost every known childhood illness that parents fear.

The truth is when herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers and weed 'n' feed products are used according to label directions, they cause no harm to children, adults, pets or the environment.

Those who want to prohibit the use of pesticides play upon your emotions and the concerns you have for the health and safety of your children. And before you know it, a few vocal activists have turned cushioned sports fields into hard, compacted dirt that is riddled with weeds and sparse remains of once healthy grass.

The reality is that uncared for and deteriorated sports fields will not provide the soft landings that all young athletes deserve.

