

# FLASH UPDATE

<http://agentorangezone.blogspot.com/>

Monday, February 4, 2013

## [Herbicide Tests and Storage in Germany](#)

Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were tested or stored elsewhere, including in countries outside of the U.S. Below is information from the Department of Defense (DoD) on projects to test, dispose of, or store herbicides outside the U.S. For projects in the U.S., go to [Herbicide Tests and Storage in the U.S.](#) View all as PDF: [Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside of Vietnam](#) (224 KB, PDF)

## [Triclosan in soaps appears to contribute to dioxin in lakes](#)

<http://gallondaily.com/2013/01/28/triclosan-in-soaps-appears-to-contribute-to-dioxin-in-lakes/>

A new study reported by researchers at the University of Minnesota has found that triclosan, a antibacterial agent widely used in soaps and similar personal care products, as well as in the manufacture of textiles, leather, paper, plastic and rubber to stop the growth of bacteria, fungus, mildew, and to prevent odours, is the dominant source of several forms of dioxin in lakes which are receiving effluents from sewage treatment plants.

The research indicates that the use of chlorine in wastewater treatment plants where triclosan is present in the effluent leads to formation of chlorinated triclosan compounds which then react photochemically to form four types of dioxin. In lakes with no wastewater input the researchers found no dioxins. Dioxins are a family of chemicals many of which are highly toxic and carcinogenic.

Environment Canada announced last March that it will “initiate consultations with industry on the potential for voluntary reductions in the use of triclosan in products”.

The new research is available in the form of an abstract (free) or full article (subscription or fee required) at <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es3045289?prevSearch=triclosan%2B2013&searchHistoryKey=> The Environment Canada position on triclosan is at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2012/2012-48-eng.php> with a link on that page to a more detailed government Q&A.

## [Agent Orange Corn Deregulation Delayed](#)

<http://tilth.org/news/agent-orange-corn-deregulation-delayed>

Agent Orange corn won't be coming to a field near you. This year. But its maker, Dow AgriSciences, has its sights set on the 2014 planting season.

Dow's Enlist corn, soy and cotton, all awaiting deregulation by the USDA, are genetically engineered to be immune to the biotech giant's Enlist herbicide. Enlist herbicide combines the weed-killers 2,4-D, a key ingredient in Agent Orange, and glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup weed killer. Studies link 2,4-D exposure to cancer, lowered sperm counts, liver toxicity and Parkinson's disease. Lab studies show that 2,4-D causes endocrine disruption, reproductive problems, neurotoxicity and immunosuppression.

Last year, advocacy groups and medical and health professionals lobbed more than 400,000 complaints about Agent Orange corn at U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. The National Resources Defense Council has sued the EPA in federal court over the use of 2,4 D in weed killers and other lawn products. Who will win in the end? Clearly, Dow believes it will. The biotech bully is already gearing up for the 2014 planting season by opening five new “technology centers” in the Midwest and South to train farmers on how to plant Agent Orange corn, and to help to set up over 100 field plots at seed company and retail locations.

[Learn more about the dangers of 2,4-D](#)

## [Update: Agent Orange's Toxic Trail](#)

In the seaside city of Da Nang, Vietnam, a clean-up is underway to remove dioxin-contaminated soil at a former U.S. military air base. Some 8,500 miles to the east, another clean-up is underway to remove dioxin hot spots along the Passaic River in Newark, NJ and upstream, where tides and floods have washed the worrisome stuff into a county park and into mudflats along a popular stretch of water where high school rowers race and families often relax along the banks and fish.



Long after the Vietnam War ended, the toxic trail left by dioxin-laced Agent Orange stretches from Newark, where herbicides were manufactured for the military in a way that created a long-lasting contaminant, to Southeast Asia—where millions of gallons of the supersized plant-killer were sprayed on jungles, mangrove swamps, military bases and airfield perimeters during a decade of war starting in 1962.

Unveiled by the Internet's astounding accumulation of news and government reports, the toxic trail of testing, transporting and trying out these chemicals—which were made in New Jersey, Michigan, West Virginia, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas—further extends to South Korea, Australia, Canada, Guam, Panama, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Mississippi, Florida, Maryland, New York and many other states. This alarming drumbeat of news reports began in the late 1960s, as the chemical spray operations aimed at exposing enemy ambush sites and supply routes in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand set off rising waves of concern about rashes of health problems among Vietnamese villagers. The herbicide spraying on the other side of the world forty-some years ago still reverberates here at home, especially among Vietnam veterans.

"They sell huge shrimp in stores here—check the package to see where it's from. They grow shrimp in bomb craters in Vietnam," says Jim Fallon, of Hoboken, NJ, who developed bone cancer in his right arm after serving as a U.S. Army medic in Vietnam.

READ MORE: <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/30/1183295/-Update-Agent-Orange-s-Toxic-Trail>