

New Consumer Pesticide Warnings Will Protect Salmon

Thousands Of Home And Garden Stores To Carry "Salmon Hazard" Information

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Home and garden stores up and down the West Coast will warn consumers of the dangers to salmon posed by seven common pesticides. Last week, "Salmon Hazard" signs were distributed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of a legal settlement with consumer and salmon advocates.

The consumer education campaign targets hundreds of products containing seven pesticides that contaminate urban streams, and can harm salmon or salmon habitat. All pesticides with the ingredients malathion, carbaryl, 2,4-D, diazinon, diuron, triclopyr, or trifluralin must carry the warning, according to court order.

"The Salmon Hazard warnings give consumers the information they need to protect salmon, and their families," said Paola Bouley *of the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network*. "The choices we make in the gardening aisle have a real impact on salmon – and on the health of our rivers and streams."

The warning reads:

SALMON HAZARD

This product contains pesticides that may harm salmon or steelhead.

Use of this product in urban areas can pollute salmon streams.

"Water borne pesticides have long been a serious problem for salmon," added Glen Spain of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), a co-plaintiff in the original case. "It is far better to keep these chemicals out of the river in the first place, and much harder to clean up a river after the damage has been done."

In May of 2006 the US EPA sent the consumer warning signs to thousands of stores in more than 500 communities, where close to 16 million people live. These retailers are required to post the warning signs near all products that contain the seven pesticides.

Patti Goldman, the Earthjustice attorney who won the protections, said, "This is a victory for consumers and their families. Gardeners have a choice when it comes to buying pesticides, and salmon will swim in cleaner streams as a result."

The case that mandated the consumer warning signs also mandated no-spray buffers for 38 pesticides along thousands of miles of salmon-supporting waters. The consumer warning signs were included in the order to address the specific concerns of pesticide runoff presented in the urban environment where storm drains act as conduits, moving pesticides miles from lawns and gardens to streams and rivers.

The seven pesticides that require consumer warning signs are:

Pesticide Name	Common Product Names	Type of Pesticide	Example of Concerns to Salmon
carbaryl	Sevin	insecticide	Reduced egg production and fertilization; reduced swimming speed in fish.
2,4-D	Found in weed and feed products	herbicide	Disrupted sex hormones of fish
diazinon	Diazinon	insecticide	Reduced sperm production in male salmon.
diuron	Karmex, Direx	herbicide	Reduced growth of aquatic plants and chlorophyll production.
malathion	50% Malathion Spray and Home Orchard Spray	insecticide	Deformed spines; disrupted temperature selection in fish.
triclopyr BEE	Crossbow and Brush-B-Gone	herbicide	Increased respiration rates; flared gills; disoriented swimming behavior in fish.
trifluralin	Gordon's Weed Preventer Granules	herbicide	Highly toxic to fish; caused skeletal abnormalities.

For more information on pesticide-free gardening:

<http://www.pesticide.org/factsheets.html>

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