Glyphosate Timeline

1974 – In the 1970s, Monsanto developed and patented glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup®. The company introduced Roundup to the market in 1974. It quickly became one of the most popular weed killers used in the U.S. for consumer, business, and agricultural purposes. Monsanto's exclusive rights to the use of glyphosate in products in the U.S. expired in September 2000.

1974 to 2015 – Glyphosate became the most widely used herbicide in the world due to the unmatched efficacy and safety profile. The leading health regulatory authorities in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Australia, Korea, Canada, New Zealand, and elsewhere conducted comprehensive risk assessments and concluded glyphosate is safe for use and not carcinogenic.

2015 – The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen." IARC is not a regulatory authority and did no original scientific studies. IARC's opinion is inconsistent with the conclusions of regulatory authorities and other experts around the world, who have assessed all the studies examined by IARC and many more. IARC is an outlier even within the World Health Organization (WHO) – IARC is one of four programs within the WHO that has evaluated the safety of glyphosate and is the only one to find an association between glyphosate and carcinogenicity. IARC states that it "identifies cancer hazards even when risks are very low at current exposure levels," which means that IARC's classifications do not reflect real-world exposure. IARC puts other everyday substances like red meat and hot beverages in the same category as glyphosate.

2015 – After IARC's opinion was announced in 2015, U.S. trial lawyers started running advertising campaigns to recruit people for lawsuits against Monsanto and Bayer. The current U.S. glyphosate litigation began just months after the publication of IARC's opinion.

2015 to 2023 – The same leading health regulatory authorities in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Australia, Korea, Canada, New Zealand, and elsewhere that assessed glyphosate before the IARC opinion conducted new risk assessments and reaffirmed that glyphosate is safe for use and not carcinogenic. The EPA specifically explained that *"EPA did not agree with the IARC conclusion that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic. EPA considered a significantly more extensive and relevant dataset than the IARC."*

2017 – California listed glyphosate under Prop 65, which is a list of substances "known to the state of California to cause cancer." The listing is based solely on IARC's 2015 opinion, which conflicts with the extensive body of science and conclusions of leading health regulators worldwide. Under Prop 65, manufacturers, farmers, food companies, etc. would be required to label glyphosate-containing products with a Prop 65 warning – a warning we know to be false and misleading. Bayer and a coalition of U.S. ag groups filed litigation challenging the constitutionality of the proposed Prop 65 warning requirement for glyphosate.

2020 – Bayer announced payment of $10.9 billion to settle most of the claims in the U.S. glyphosate litigation.

2021 – Bayer announced the Five Point Plan to bring closure to the U.S. glyphosate litigation. As part of the Five Point Plan, Bayer transitioned U.S. residential Lawn & Garden Roundup® products to new formulations that have different active ingredients. Bayer took this action exclusively to manage litigation risk and not because of any safety concerns. The vast majority of claims have come from residential L&G users, so this transition largely eliminates the primary source of future claims. This transition does not impact any agriculture or professional products. The new Lawn & Garden Roundup products are registered in all 50 states and on the market for the 2024 season.

2023 – In November, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit found California's Proposition 65 warning for glyphosate to be unconstitutional, stating in their opinion *"IARC stands essentially alone in its determination that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic to humans, while EPA and regulators from around the world conclude that it is not."*

2023 – In November, the EU Commission reapproved glyphosate for 10 years, following the favorable scientific assessments by its health and safety agencies, including the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which "did not identify any critical areas of concern" impacting public health or the environment.

Today – Glyphosate is the most widely used and extensively studied herbicide on the market. In the U.S. litigation, Bayer has a winning record at trial (14 wins and 9 losses) and has resolved a majority of the cases filed (~113K of 167K). Bayer wins when juries have access to all the relevant evidence and scientific information. Bayer will continue to appeal any adverse trial verdicts and seek a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on federal preemption, which is a cross-cutting issue in this litigation.