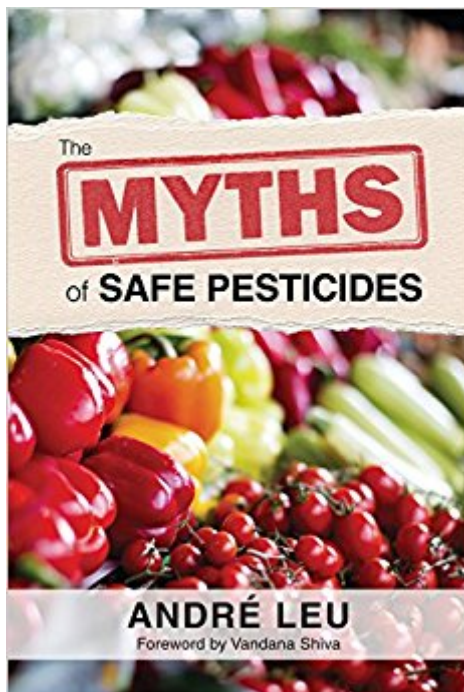


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The Myths Of Safe Pesticides



Synopsis

The chemical-based conventional agriculture industry claims that the synthesized concoctions they sell as pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides are safe when used as directed, but does the scientific evidence truly support their assertions? Organic agriculturist and lecturer André Leu delves into a wealth of respected scientific journals to present the peer-reviewed evidence that proves the claims of chemical companies and pesticide regulators are not all they seem. Leu translates technical jargon into layman's terms to break down the five most-repeated myths about pesticide safety, refuting them using scientific data. The pesticide industry argues that agriculture, and the global population itself, cannot survive without its products, but Leu warns that we are at risk unless we break free of their toxic hold and turn to more natural methods of pest and weed regulation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Right in the preface to *The Myth of Safe Pesticides*, we learn the secret formula to stop the madness: pesticides create pests, they don't control them. Biodiversity is our best friend in dealing with pest problems. The rest of *The Myth of Safe Pesticides* is a hailstorm of facts. There is no padding, no narrative, no tangents, no stories of suffering or redemption, no sugarcoating. Rather than a personal rant, Leu lets the scientific studies speak for themselves. And there are hundreds to choose from. Each chapter dispels a myth about the safety of pesticides, and by extension, the government regulators and corporate community evaluating them:

1. All agricultural poisons are

rigorously tested. Actually, of the more than 88,000 chemical compounds unleashed on the world since the end of World War II, only a few hundred have been (incorrectly) tested, only three have ever been banned, and none have been tested in combination with any of the others, inside the human body.² Very small amount. The old adage is the dose makes the poison. Actually, the body doesn't care about massive amounts. It's the tiniest parts per billion and even trillion that latch on to proteins, hormones and cells, block communications from the brain, disrupt the stability of the network, and create massive imbalances in cell growth (cancers) and the various "new" chronic diseases of the past 25 years. It's the tiny amounts that kill.³ Breakdown - modern pesticides rapidly degrade. Actually, residues concentrate the poisons. When toxic poisons break down (biodegrade) they can become oxons, 100 times more toxic than the original pesticide. Glyphosate (Roundup) at residue levels induces human breast cancer cells to multiply 8-13 times. It grows cancer.⁴

The Myths of Safe Pesticides by Andre Leu ISBN 978-1-60173-084-8 Published by Acres U.S.A. in 2014. This is probably the best compact book on the dangers of pesticides that I have ever read. The main focus of the book is dispelling the five most common myths related to pesticides: (1) the "rigorously tested" myth, (2) the "very small amount" myth, (3) the "breakdown" myth, (4) the "reliable regulatory authority" myth, and (5) the "pesticides are essential to farming myth". Myth #1: "All agricultural poisons are scientifically tested to ensure safe use." This is a myth because according to the U.S. President's Cancer Panel (USPCP), "Only a few hundred of the more than 80,000 chemicals in use today in the United States have been tested for safety." The USPCP also noted that 77% of the foods in the U.S. contain pesticide residue of different agricultural chemicals. One study showed that low doses of commonly used agricultural chemicals can significantly affect health. For example, mice were given drinking water containing combinations of pesticides, herbicides, and nitrate fertilizer at concentrations currently found in ground water in the U.S. The mice exhibited altered immune, endocrine (hormone), and nervous system functions. A large body of published, peer-reviewed scientific research shows that pesticide exposure in children is linked to: (1) lower IQs, (2) ADHD, (3) Autism spectrum disorders, (4) lack of physical coordination, (5) loss of temper/anger management issues, (6) bipolar/schizophrenia spectrum of illnesses, (7) depression.

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