

Julie Hayes  
Eddington

In 2010, my husband and I bought a home on 10 acres in Eddington, that included a small Christmas tree farm. We were eager to learn to take care of the trees and keep up the long Choose-and-Cut tradition at the property. We received lots of good advice on Best Practices, including the importance of preventing weeds from competing with the young trees.

Glyphosate was the chemical treatment recommended, to be sprayed on the fields in fall and spring.

After just 4 years of careful, limited applications of Glyphosate, my husband was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. As we have now learned, the link between Glyphosate and blood cancers, especially non-Hodgkin lymphoma, is well-established. Lawsuits are ongoing against manufacturer Monsanto (now purchased by Bayer). Though my husband is now in remission, we choose to raise our trees organically. No person (or animal) should be exposed to a known carcinogen, and forced to endure the hardship and suffering of the subsequent treatments, which in our case included many rounds of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant.

We banned DDT, and now it is time to move away from wide-spread use of Glyphosate. It is important to raise public awareness about the connection between Glyphosate and cancer.