



OFFICE INTERNATIONAL

du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux

association sans but lucratif

1926-2016
90 ans

Regroupement des fédérations européennes des jardins familiaux
Membre d'Europa Nostra
Statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

20 rue de Bragance, L-1255 Luxembourg



The Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux and the affiliated federations call upon all allotment gardeners to take part in the Week without pesticides organized from 20th till 30th March 2017



In the beginning pesticides looked to be like a blessing from heaven. They had the ability to kill unwanted, dangerous and irritating insects. And with simple devices they could be sprayed on or being blown to places, plants, objects or bodies where this seemed to be useful.

After the Second World War DDT did a magnificent job and soon it became very popular. In every grocery store it was available so not only professional agriculture, but nearly every household used it for getting rid of unwanted insects.

After some time it became clear that there were unwanted side effects. It not only effectively killed damage giving insects but useful insects as well. And even worse its remains were spread in nature and finally it became stored in the bodies of animals, doing its killing or damaging work more effectively than anybody had envisioned.

The manufacturer came twice with first a second and thereafter with a third generation product: dieldrin and aldrin. These should not have the unwanted side effects of DDT. In reality they were even worse.

With her book “Silent Spring” Rachel Carson showed the world the devastating effects of the large scale use of these products.

Some forerunners banned their use, but the industry continued bringing new products to the market, always suggesting that safe use was possible. The world has seen the effects on humans of the lavish use of “Agent Orange” in the Vietnam War. Several components of this product have been used by local governments and agriculture, even when they were not allowed by the Food and Drugs administration in the USA.

This sad story continues. Every time again the industry introduces new products, claiming their use is safe and does not have unwanted side effects.

There are strong indications that a widely available herbicide can give damage to our bodies. Other wide spread products not only seem to kill useful honeybees but also as useful wild bees, wasps and flies.

So these are all reasons to participate in the week against pesticides and make people aware of the danger in order to diminish the use of and in many cases introduce a ban on the use of these far from innocent pesticides.

You don't need to wait until National or European governmental organisations finally take responsibility. You can take responsibility yourself. Save the honeybees, prevent chemicals from hidden long term killing and poisoning of living, interesting, beautiful and valuable creatures.

Therefore not only participate in the week of pesticides, but make an end to their unwanted application. Use organic fertilizers such as compost, apply crop rotation, use companion plants etc

Information on <http://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.com/>