



THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION
FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

Protect Public Health: Ban Paraquat

Paraquat is a widely used and highly toxic pesticide. Decades of studies also strongly link paraquat to Parkinson's disease. Studies have found people who live and work near where paraquat is sprayed have an increased risk of being diagnosed with the disease. Banning paraquat will protect people's health.

Banned in 70 Countries, Used in America

More than 70 countries have banned paraquat including the European Union. In China, officials banned the chemical to "safeguard people's life, safety and health," however, two Chinese state-owned companies accounted for 65 percent of U.S. paraquat imports from 2022 to 2024. China has banned paraquat but profits from its use in America. We must protect the health of people in America by banning paraquat.

Farming without Paraquat

- + Farmers in the U.S. produce crops without using paraquat, including cotton, corn, soybeans, apples, grapes and almonds.
- + Following bans, studies have found farmers use alternative pesticides and agricultural practices, and that agricultural productivity is not harmed, in fact, yields went up in some countries.
- + Some countries that have banned paraquat outproduce the U.S. in major crops, including cotton, soybeans, wheat, apples, grapes and walnuts.



The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's and working to eliminate health threats linked to the disease. The toxic pesticide paraquat is strongly connected to the disease. We urge officials to protect public health and ban this dangerous pesticide.



A Parkinson's diagnosis is a life-changing event. This disease damages and kills brain cells that coordinate thinking, movement and memory.



Parkinson's is the **fastest-growing disease in the world** that damages the brain. An estimated 1 million people in the U.S. have the disease, and 90,000 more are diagnosed each year.



Genetics accounts for around 22% of the risk of getting Parkinson's, while aging and environmental factors are significantly tied to the disease.



Please direct any questions to Grant Cope, Environmental Health Policy Lead,
gcope@michaeljfox.org.

Paraquat is so toxic that containers of the chemical are required to apply a warning label that says “**fatal if swallowed or inhaled.**” Corrosive to skin and eyes, paraquat can poison people even if it touches irritated or cut skin. There is no antidote.



EPA's legally required label warning on paraquat

Paraquat Replicates Parkinson's Disease Damage to the Brain

Paraquat enters areas of the brain that control motor function and replicates damages that are hallmarks of Parkinson's disease.

- + **Harming mitochondria** in the brain that provide energy and help keep neurons alive.
- + **Disrupting neurotransmitters** and damaging cells. Studies have found that paraquat may play a role in the spread of abnormal proteins (“alpha-synuclein”) linked to Parkinson's disease.
- + **Killing specific neurons** (“dopaminergic neurons”) that also die in Parkinson's disease.

For further information, go to banparaquat.org.



Studies of people who **live or work near where paraquat is sprayed have found increased risks** of being diagnosed with the disease.



Researchers have found **people who spray paraquat are more than twice as likely to develop Parkinson's** as people who applied other pesticides.



Highlighting the importance of prevention, scientists estimate that Parkinson's disease cases will grow to more than **25 million people worldwide by 2050, a 112% increase from 2021.**



Preventing Parkinson's is a crucial investment. **By 2037, Parkinson's will cost our country \$80 billion annually**, a significant economic burden on budgets of individuals, families and the federal government.



Please direct any questions to Grant Cope, Environmental Health Policy Lead,
gcope@michaeljfox.org.