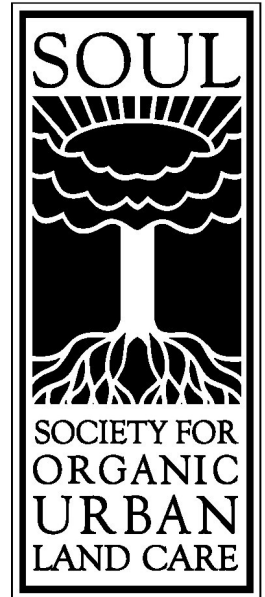


Organic Land Care *with*



"We cannot have peace on the earth
unless we have peace with the earth."

- Julia Butterfly Hill

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Our Mission:

"To support our communities in their transition to organic practices".

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April, 2007

Happy Easter! ...What do you think of this re-write:

Earth's Ten Commandments

Thou shalt love and honor the Earth for it blesses thy life and governs thy survival.

Thou shalt keep each day sacred to the Earth and celebrate the turning of its seasons.

Thou shalt not hold thyself above other living things nor drive them to extinction.

Thou shalt give thanks for thy food to the creatures and plants that nourish thee.

Thou shalt limit thy offspring for multitudes of people are a burden unto the Earth.

Thou shalt not kill nor waste Earth's riches upon weapons of war.

Thou shalt not pursue profit at the Earth's expense but strive to restore its damaged majesty.

Thou shalt not hide from thyself or others the consequences of thy actions upon the Earth.

Thou shalt not steal from future generations by impoverishing or poisoning the Earth.

Thou shalt consume material goods in moderation so all may share Earth's bounty.

- Ernest Callenbach

Pesticide Leaves Robins Unable to Carry a Tune

By Abigail W. Leonard in LiveScience, July 23, 2006

Source: Organic Consumers Association, www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_1209.cfm

Nearly half a century after DDT was first dumped across acres of North American farmland and three decades after it was banned in the United States and Canada, the toxic pesticide still has damaging effects on local species, according to a new study.

Robins exposed to DDT before birth had damage to regions of the brain that enable them to sing and protect territory. Both functions are integral to mating and were more impaired in male robins, potentially leaving them unable to attract females.

"This is the first study that documented a neural effect from DDT in a natural population in any species," said Andrew Iwaniuk, a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Alberta and an author of the study published in *Behavioural Brain Research*. The majority of previous research focused on acute, rather than chronic conditions and usually in controlled lab environments, he says.

Can't build a nest

The researchers collected eggs from a population of wild birds and found that some had high levels of DDT, while others had no exposure at all. After the birds hatched, they raised both groups in a pesticide-free environment, then sacrificed them at two years to examine their brain tissue.

The group that came in contact with the pesticide during development had up to 30 percent less tissue in certain areas of the brain – and they were unable to sing complicated songs, defend their territory or even build nests properly.

The researchers aren't sure why some eggs had higher levels of DDT than others, but they think that as mother robins forage for earthworms, they pick up pesticides in the soil, some more than others.

Because eggs are rich in fat, they are perfect receptacles for fat-soluble DDT. So as the mother feeds, the DDT is deposited in her eggs. Brain tissue is also highly fatty, "so the DDT likes to hang out there," Iwaniuk said.

Ongoing problem

Iwaniuk estimates that at least 15 to 20 generations of robins have been affected since the pesticide was first applied. Because they live in orchards where soil is not regularly aerated, he sees little hope for change, at least in the near future.

As long as it remains there, DDT has the potential to impact a wide range of animals. The researchers don't know how far up the food chain the toxin might travel, but hawks and weasels that eat robins could potentially be at risk as well. Iwaniuk says he is particularly concerned about aboriginal populations that live in the area and subsist on natural food sources.

Even for people who won't come in direct contact with DDT, Iwaniuk thinks there's a larger lesson here.

"Yes, it happened historically, but there are still problems with pesticides," he says. "They have an extremely long half-life and just because we use one today, that doesn't mean it will always be safe."



"If we do not have an economy capable of valuing in particular terms the durable goods of localities and communities, then we are not going to be able to preserve anything. We are going to have to see that if we want our forests to last, then we must make wood products that last, for our forests are more threatened by shoddy workmanship than by clearcutting or by fire. [...]"

The good worker loves the board before it becomes a table, loves the tree before it yields the board, loves the forest before it gives up the tree."

Wendell Berry from "Preserving Wildness"