

Herbicides

Herbicides are things that are meant to kill certain plants. We often call herbicides “weed killer.” In many cases, herbicides are toxic to beneficial (helpful) soil organisms (living things), such as bacteria that help break down the soil and helpful types of fungus. Some fungi help the root systems of plants to help bring in the nutrients they need. Bacteria also help plants to get nutrients. Not all bacteria and fungus help plants. Herbicides have been shown to kill the helpful soil organisms, which results in too many harmful bacteria and fungi growing. Some agricultural lands (farm land) do not grow food for a period of time after extensive (a lot of) herbicide use, or are only productive with extensive use of fertilizer.