Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide that can be used on crops, lawns, and landscapes to kill many annual and perennial weeds. It is effective against grasses as well as broadleaf and woody plants. It is applied directly to the foliage and moves through the plant. Glyphosate generally is sold as a water-soluble concentrate or ready-to-use spray.

**Potential hazards of glyphosate:**
- Low in toxicity to mammals including people and pets if it is consumed or inhaled or if it gets onto skin.
- Slightly toxic to aquatic invertebrates.
- Slightly toxic to wild birds.
- Low in toxicity to earthworms.
- High potential to injure nearby desirable plants, since it is nonselective (i.e., broad spectrum).

**Water quality issues:**
Glyphosate binds strongly to soil, giving it a low potential for runoff or to contaminate groundwater. However, if there are soil particles in the runoff, there is the chance that glyphosate will be carried with the soil particles into waterways.

**Tips for keeping glyphosate out of water:**
- Avoid spraying on hard surfaces, especially when water from irrigation or rain can wash the herbicide away.
- Use only products that state they are for use near or in water when controlling aquatic weeds or weeds near bodies of water.
- Avoid runoff by not overwatering.
- Apply only when needed.
- Use spot treatments to apply the herbicide only where it is needed.
- Do not spray in windy conditions.

For more pesticide and pest management information, visit the University of California IPM Web site at [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu) or the California Department of Pesticide Regulation Web site at [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov).