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Permaculture in Practice: A no-pest proposal

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Posted: Saturday, June 1, 2013 10:00 pm

By Nate Downey
For The New Mexican | 0 comments

It's an uplifting human experience to ponder the mega-corporations of this world. Their power seems so vast. Their reach seems so huge. We could be talking about Exxon, Halliburton, J.P. Morgan Chase, or any of the other great American companies capable of showing the world who's boss. They sure do make all flag-waving patriots feel good about how far we've come as a nation.

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But there is one firm in particular that is a beacon to all. I'm talking about Monsanto, the almost bashful makers of Agent Orange, Roundup, PCBs, dioxin, bovine growth hormone, transgenic seeds, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Rather than worry about Monsanto's attempt to corner the world food market, we should all thank the pioneering company for keeping our sidewalks, driveways, and lawns clear of weeds all these years. Just visualize for a minute all of those fields, those rows and rows and rows and rows of crops. Ya think, they would have grown so good if it weren't for Monsanto's patented herbicide?

The active ingredient in Roundup, glyphosate, has other positive benefits. Think of all of the doctors, nurses, and pharmaceutical companies that benefit financially from having so many more cancer patients and kids with birth defects. Think of all of the paper-pushers at insurance companies who would be out of work if it weren't for all those tumors. And since we all should be worried about overpopulation, critics should be thanking Monsanto for the additional human infertility that comes with bug-free waves of grain.

Monsanto's international work has also been exemplary. They've learned how to get farmers around the world to become addicted to their patented products, and they've learned how to sue growers from backwards places like India and the Upper Midwest in a way that only a shining example of crony capitalism can.

Let's not also forget K Street. If it weren't for Monsanto there'd be far fewer lobbyists out there. These people keep the local economy of our nation's capitol humming, and for this they should be honored. Fortunately, they already are. They're honored with oodles of appointments at the FDA and tons of help from the House and Senate agriculture committees.

Poisoning our planet's soil clearly has it advantages.

To me, and to many of us who are proud to be part of the movement, it's time for Monsanto to get its due. For too long the company has been paying out fines for



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damages. Take Anniston, Alabama, for example. Ten years ago Monsanto was forced by a rogue court to pay \$700 million just because “a few” people got sick. Well, I mean 20,000 plaintiffs could be construed as more than “a few,” but Legal tells me I’m okay here if I put it in quotes.

Now that so little has been done this year in Washington, I say it’s time for a Monsanto Protection Act to be put forth... Wait, what? That act already sailed through Congress? Phew! Pass the corn syrup would ya, please?

Nate Downey, a landscape designer, is a part-time satirist and the author of the 2010 book Harvest the Rain (Sunstone Press). Find him at www.permadesign.com.

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