

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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MIQUEL CARIAS, MARIO WASHINGTON,
HORACIO TORRES BONILLA, IRIS PICONE,
ZENA MATOS and BERTA P. ORTIZ,
individually and on behalf all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

MONSANTO COMPANY, a Delaware
corporation; DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.
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Case No. 15 CV 3677

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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, MIQUEL CARIAS, MARIO WASHINGTON, HORACIO TORRES BONILLA, IRIS PICONE, ZENA MATOS and BERTA P. ORTIZ, by and through their counsel, brings this Class Action Complaint against MONSANTO COMPANY, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, and allege, upon personal knowledge as to their own actions and their counsel's investigations, and upon information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. This is a consumer protection and false advertising class action. Defendant, MONSANTO COMPANY, markets, advertises and distributes "Roundup" (hereinafter, "the "Product"), the world's most popular weed killer. Defendant makes the claim that the primary ingredient in the Product, glyphosate, works by targeting an enzyme supposedly found only in plants, *but not in people*. And this is blatantly false.

2. Contrary to Defendant's claim, the primary ingredient in the Product, glyphosate, targets an enzyme found in both plants *and* people. Therefore, where Defendant advertises that the Product targets an enzyme "not found in people," such claim is objectively false and inherently misleading.

3. Plaintiffs bring claims against Defendant individually and on behalf of a nationwide class of all other similarly situated purchasers of the Product for violations of New York's General Business Law §§ 349 and 350. Plaintiffs seek an order requiring Defendant to, among other things: (a) strike the offending slogan from all Roundup labels; (b) conduct a corrective advertising campaign; and (c) pay damages and restitution to Plaintiffs and Class members.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1332(d)(2), inasmuch as the class contains at least one member of diverse citizenship from Defendant and the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million.

5. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant is authorized to, and conducts, substantial business in New York, generally, and this District, specifically. Defendant has marketed, promoted, distributed and sold the Product in New York.

6. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(1), inasmuch as a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to this action occurred in this District as Defendant distributes the Product for sale within this District.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff, MIQUEL CARIAS, is a resident of Nassau County, New York, and brings this lawsuit on behalf of himself, as an individual, and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons in New York.

8. Mr. Carias has purchased the Product on several occasions in Nassau County, New York, over the past four years in reliance on Defendant's representations that the Product targets an enzyme supposedly found only in plants.

9. Specifically, on the label of the Product Plaintiff has repeatedly purchased, the following words prominently appear: "Glyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets".

10. This representation was material to Mr. Carias' decision to make the purchases. Mr. Carias would not have purchased the Product or would have purchased alternative products in the absence of the representation. As a result of purchasing a product in reliance on advertising that was false, Mr. Carias has suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of the unfair business practice alleged here.

11. Plaintiff, MARIO WASHINGTON, is a resident of Queens County, New York, and brings this lawsuit on behalf of himself, as an individual, and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons in New York.

12. Mr. Washington has purchased the Product on several occasions in Queens County, New York, over the past four years in reliance on Defendant's representations that the Product targets an enzyme supposedly found only in plants.

13. Specifically, on the label of the Product Plaintiff has repeatedly purchased, the following words prominently appear: "Glyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets".

14. This representation was material to Mr. Washington's decision to make the purchases. Mr. Washington would not have purchased the Product or would have purchased alternative products in the absence of the representation. As a result of purchasing a product in reliance on advertising that was false, Mr. Washington has suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of the unfair business practice alleged here.

15. Plaintiff, HORACIO TORRES BONILLA, is a resident of Bronx County, New York, and brings this lawsuit on behalf of himself, as an individual, and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons in New York.

16. Mr. Bonilla has purchased the Product on several occasions in Bronx County, New York, over the past four years in reliance on Defendant's representations that the Product targets an enzyme supposedly found only in plants.

17. Specifically, on the label of the Product Plaintiff has repeatedly purchased, the following words prominently appear: "Glyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets".

18. This representation was material to Mr. Bonilla's decision to make the purchases. Mr. Bonilla would not have purchased the Product or would have purchased alternative products in the absence of the representation. As a result of purchasing a product in reliance on advertising that was false, Mr. Bonilla has suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of the unfair business practice alleged here.

19. Plaintiff, IRIS PICONE, is a resident of Bronx County, New York, and brings this lawsuit on behalf of herself, as an individual, and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons in New York.

20. Ms. Picone has purchased the Product on several occasions in Bronx County, New York over the past four years in reliance on Defendant's representations that the Product targets an enzyme supposedly found only in plants.

21. Specifically, on the label of the Product Plaintiff has repeatedly purchased, the following words prominently appear: “Glyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets”.

22. This representation was material to Ms. Picone’s decision to make the purchases. Ms. Picone would not have purchased the Product or would have purchased alternative products in the absence of the representation. As a result of purchasing a product in reliance on advertising that was false, Ms. Picone has suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of the unfair business practice alleged here.

23. Plaintiff, ZENA MATOS, is a resident of Bronx County, New York, and brings this lawsuit on behalf of herself, as an individual, and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons in New York.

24. Ms. Matos has purchased the Product on several occasions in Bronx County, New York, over the past four years in reliance on Defendant’s representations that the Product targets an enzyme supposedly found only in plants.

25. Specifically, on the label of the Product Plaintiff has repeatedly purchased, the following words prominently appear: “Glyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets”.

26. This representation was material to Ms. Matos’ decision to make the purchases. Ms. Matos would not have purchased the Product or would have purchased alternative products in the absence of the representation. As a result of purchasing a product in reliance on advertising that was false, Ms. Matos has suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of the unfair business practice alleged here.

27. Plaintiff, BERTA P. ORTIZ, is a resident of Bronx County, New York, and brings this lawsuit on behalf of herself, as an individual, and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons in New York.

28. Ms. Ortiz has purchased the Product on several occasions in Bronx County, New York, over the past four years in reliance on Defendant's representations that the Product targets an enzyme supposedly found only in plants.

29. Specifically, on the label of the Product Plaintiff has repeatedly purchased, the following words prominently appear: "Glyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets".

30. This representation was material to Ms. Ortiz's decision to make the purchases. Ms. Ortiz would not have purchased the Product or would have purchased alternative products in the absence of the representation. As a result of purchasing a product in reliance on advertising that was false, Ms. Ortiz has suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of the unfair business practice alleged here.

31. Defendant, MONSANTO COMPANY, ("MONSANTO"), is a Delaware corporation in "active" status with its principal place of business in St. Louis, Missouri. Defendant advertises and sells goods to consumers in New York and throughout the United States.

32. DOES 1 – 10 are herein sued under fictitious names; when their true names are known, Plaintiffs will amend. Along with the named Defendant, each DOE Defendant is a proximate cause of Plaintiffs' harm.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

33. Defendant manufactures Roundup, the world's most popular weed killer. Roundup's active ingredient is a potent "biocide" called glyphosate, which inhibits weeds from producing a certain enzyme they need in order to live.

34. Glyphosate inhibits production of the enzyme, *EPSP synthase*, which is produced by weeds, plants, bacteria, fungi, algae, and billions of various microbes.

35. Glyphosate works by inhibiting weeds from producing *EPSP synthase*—and once rendered unable to produce this enzyme—weeds cannot uptake minerals, nor can they make proteins from amino acids. Weeds then starve to death.

36. This lawsuit challenges a specific claim that appears on all Roundup labels (see, "**Exhibit A**", annexed hereto), which reads... "GLYPHOSATE TARGETS AN ENZYME FOUND IN PLANTS BUT NOT IN PEOPLE OR PETS." ...as this claim is absolutely, positively false.

37. Glyphosate does indeed target an enzyme "found in people." Produced within our bodies, the targeted enzyme is in fact "found in people"—in our gut bacteria.

38. Defendant's claim is plainly false because the targeted enzyme, factually speaking, is "found in people," specifically, in our stomachs and intestines. Because the enzyme that glyphosate targets is indeed found in people, in our gut bacteria, it is therefore objectively false (and inherently misleading) for Defendant to claim that glyphosate targets an enzyme not found in people.

39. The truth is, glyphosate targets an enzyme that is indisputably found in people—and based on this material fact, which Defendant cannot deny, Plaintiffs’ lawsuit here prevails at this juncture.

40. Defendant cannot deny that Roundup targets an enzyme that is physically located inside of people and this fact is beyond dispute.

41. The precise falsehood comes with Defendant’s choice of words, “found in,” because the targeted enzyme is indeed “found in” people, specifically, in our gut bacteria, a.k.a. “microbiota.”

42. Commonly called gut bacteria, or gut flora, the proper term “microbiota” refers to the innumerable microbial colonies—over one hundred trillion—that dwell inside our stomachs and intestines. The total microbiota “found in” humans can weigh up to 5 lbs.—with fully one-third of our microbiota common to all humans— and many consider it an organ (just like the heart or lungs). Our microbiota are responsible for digestion, metabolism, and healthy immune system function.

43. Glyphosate is a “non-selective” weed killer, meaning it kills indiscriminately based only on whether a given organism produces the enzyme, *EPSP synthase*. Most significantly, because our gut bacteria produce *EPSP synthase*, this means that our gut bacteria are vulnerable to being killed-off by glyphosate.

43. Just like it inhibits backyard weeds from producing *EPSP synthase*—glyphosate also inhibits our gut bacteria from producing it, and in both cases, the end result is the same; inability to produce the enzyme spells death for both backyard weeds and gut bacteria.

44. The same chemistry that kills backyard weeds likewise kills gut bacteria, and this bacteria kill-off compromises our digestion, metabolism and vital immune system functions.

45. Sprayed as a liquid, (not a “dust”), plants absorb glyphosate directly through their leaves, stems, and roots and detectable quantities accumulate in plant tissues.

46. When we eat crops sprayed with glyphosate, we ingest glyphosate, and detectable quantities accumulate in our tissues. The industry pretends that only a tad of glyphosate lingers on the *outside* of the food, as “topical residue,” while ignoring “systemic residue” *inside* the food.

47. Glyphosate “bio-accumulates”—our bodies store it up—and there is no safe threshold for its accumulation. Glyphosate has been detected in urine, blood, even breast milk—and 75% of rainwater samples.

48. In addition to its use as weed killer, glyphosate also has an “off-label” use—to prematurely “ripen” crops.

49. Ever anxious to get crops to market, farmers now accelerate the “ripening” process by using a smidgeon of glyphosate, just before harvest time, to partially starve the crops, which mimics the “ripening” process.

50. In 2013, EPA raised minimum glyphosate levels for crops and this opened the floodgates for glyphosate.

51. Despite industry rhetoric about less pesticide use, our world today is saturated with *more* glyphosate than ever before. Today, glyphosate is ubiquitous. Each year, approx. 250 millions pounds are sprayed on crops, suburban lawns, parks and golf courses. Driven mainly by proliferation of genetically engineered crops, glyphosate use now skyrockets.

52. Defendant genetically engineers crops to make them glyphosate tolerant, *i.e.*, “Roundup Ready.” And while these genetically engineered crops may be glyphosate tolerant, our gut bacteria most certainly are not.

53. Glyphosate is a “biocide,” essentially an “antibiotic,” which means that most Americans eat “antibiotics” at every meal. Some believe that glyphosate causes “antibiotic-resistant” bacterial infections, and many folks take dietary supplements, “*probiotics*,” to replenish the beneficial gut bacteria that glyphosate kills.

54. As farmers spray ever more glyphosate, season after season, some weeds become resistant and fields are then overgrown with “super weeds.” This same phenomenon also occurs in our stomachs and intestines; as we ingest ever more glyphosate, meal after meal, some gut bacteria become resistant and our bodies are then overgrown with these heartier microbes—essentially “super weeds.” And when this happens, the resulting imbalance allows opportunistic pathogens to rise-up and spread disease throughout our bodies.

55. Because glyphosate kills-off gut bacteria that regulate *digestive functions*, many believe it is responsible for America’s chronic indigestion.

56. Further, because it kills-off gut bacteria that regulate *immune system functions*, many believe glyphosate is responsible for America's chronic auto-immunity disorders.

57. Additionally, because it kills-off our gut bacteria, glyphosate is linked to stomach and bowel problems, indigestion, ulcers, colitis, gluten intolerance, insomnia, lethargy, depression, Crohn's Disease, Celiac Disease, allergies, obesity, diabetes, infertility, liver disease, renal failure, autism, Alzheimer's and endocrine disruption.

58. Moreover, the W.H.O. recently announced that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic" (many believe that the EPA has known, for at least 30 years, of glyphosate's cancer-causing potential).

59. Defendant also conceals the fact that *EPSP synthase* is "found in" our pets, e.g., dogs and cats, in their gut bacteria, which of course regulate canine and feline digestion, metabolism and vital immune system function.

60. In addition to being *objectively false*, Defendant's advertising claim is also *inherently misleading* because it creates the misimpression that glyphosate has no affect on people or pets, when in reality, it directly affects both people and pets—by killing-off beneficial gut bacteria.

61. The fact that all Roundup labels bear the same false and misleading slogan (see, "**Exhibit A**"), demonstrates Defendant's intent to misinform the public.

62. Plaintiffs detrimentally relied on Defendant's false claims.

63. When they purchased Roundup, Plaintiffs believed that glyphosate targets and kills only the weeds in our backyards, but Plaintiffs now know the real truth, *i.e.*, that glyphosate also targets and kills the “weeds” in our digestive systems, which contain beneficial gut bacteria that our bodies require for proper digestion, metabolism, and healthy immune system function.

64. Plaintiffs are entitled to judgment because Defendant cannot deny that our digestive systems contain bacteria that produce *EPSP synthase*, which glyphosate inhibits. Plaintiffs must therefore prevail.

65. As a direct result of Defendant’s false claims, Plaintiffs were led to believe that Roundup would not affect them, but their beliefs were based on Defendant’s falsehoods.

66. Defendant continues to sell Roundup with false and misleading labeling; therefore, Plaintiffs seek a court order to prohibit Defendant from ever again falsely claiming that glyphosate targets an enzyme, “*not found in people or pets.*” Unless restrained by court order, Defendant will continue to mislead others.

67. Plaintiffs will now reveal the multi-layered deception that underpins the claim, “Glyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants, but not in people or pets” (*see*, “**Exhibit A**”).

68. Remarkably, this 13-word sentence contains a grand total of three material falsehoods:

(i) “found in” – Defendant’s claim that glyphosate targets an enzyme not “found in” people is of course plainly false; as above stated, *EPSP synthase* is indeed “found in” people;

(ii) “an enzyme” – Defendant’s claim that glyphosate targets “an” enzyme is false; the truth is, glyphosate also inhibits production of *other* plant and animal “enzymes”—plural, not singular; and

(iii) “targets” – Defendant’s claim that glyphosate “targets” is false; glyphosate is a “non-selective” weed killer that kills indiscriminately; in other words, it “targets” nothing. Glyphosate is a patented “biocide”—*i.e.*, it “kills life.”

69. Defendant misleads the general public by concealing the truth about (a) glyphosate, and (b) the enzyme, *EPSP synthase*, namely: (i) that *EPSP synthase* is “found in” people and pets; (ii) that glyphosate inhibits production of many *other* plant and animal enzymes; and (iii) that glyphosate lacks the ability to target with specificity.

70. Glyphosate is an indiscriminate killer that broadly kills—and the individual glyphosate molecules have no way of knowing whether they’re killing weeds in our backyards or weeds in our digestive systems.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

71. Plaintiffs seek relief in their individual capacity and seek to represent a class consisting of all others who are similarly situated.

72. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b)(2) and/or (b)(3), Plaintiffs seek certification of a class initially defined as follows:

All persons who from June 23, 2011 until the date notice is disseminated to the Class (the “Class Period”), purchased Roundup, or Roundup-related products in New York.

73. Excluded from the Class are Defendant and its subsidiaries and affiliates, Defendant’s executives, board members, legal counsel, the judges and all other court personnel to whom this case is assigned, their immediate families, and those who purchased the Product for the purpose of resale.

74. Numerosity. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1). The potential members of the Class as defined are so numerous that joinder of all members is unfeasible and not practicable. While the precise number of Class members has not been determined at this time, Plaintiffs are informed and believe that many thousands or millions of consumers have purchased the Product.

75. Commonality. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2) and (b)(3). There are no affirmative defenses that Defendant may assert against some, but not all members. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class, which predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:

(a) Whether Defendant’s claim that “[g]lyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets” is true or false or likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;

- (b) Whether Defendant violated New York General Business Law § 349;
- (c) Whether Defendant violated New York General Business Law § 350; and
- (d) The nature of the relief, including equitable relief, to which Plaintiffs and the Class members are entitled.

76. Typicality. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3). Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Plaintiffs and all Class members were exposed to uniform practices and sustained injury arising out of and caused by Defendant's unlawful conduct.

77. Adequacy of Representation. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4). Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the members of the Class. Plaintiffs' Counsel are competent and experienced and anticipate no difficulties in maintaining this litigation as a class action.

78. Superiority of Class Action. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3). A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all the members of the Class is impracticable. Furthermore, the adjudication of this controversy through a class action will avoid the possibility of inconsistent and potentially conflicting adjudication of the asserted claims.

79. Injunctive and Declaratory Relief. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). Defendant's misrepresentations are uniform as to all members of the Class. Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the Class, so that final injunctive relief or declaratory relief is appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
(Violation of New York General Business Law § 349)

80. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the substantive allegations set forth above.

81. As alleged above, by advertising, marketing, distributing and/or selling the Product to Plaintiffs and Class members, Defendant engaged in and continues to engage in deceptive acts and practices in violation of Section 349 of the New York General Business Law.

82. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and Class members, seek equitable relief in the form of an Order requiring Defendant to refund Plaintiffs and all Class members all monies they paid for the Product.

83. Plaintiffs and Class members seek to enjoin such unlawful deceptive acts and practices alleged above. Each Class member will be irreparably harmed unless Defendant's unlawful actions are enjoined because Defendant will continue to mislead consumers with its deceptive advertising. Therefore, Plaintiffs and Class members request an Order prohibiting Defendant from engaging in the alleged misconduct and performing a corrective advertising campaign.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
(Violation of New York General Business Law § 350)

84. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the substantive allegations set forth above.

85. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the Class.

86. As described above, Defendant engaged in false and misleading marketing and advertising claims by falsely representing that the Product “targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets” in violation of Section 350 of the New York General Business Law.

87. As set forth above, Defendant engaged in and continues to engage in false advertising by advertising, marketing, distributing and/or selling the Product to Plaintiffs and Class members.

88. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s violations, Plaintiffs suffered injury in fact and lost money.

89. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and Class members, seek equitable relief in the form of an Order requiring Defendant to refund Plaintiffs and Class members all monies they paid for the Product.

90. Plaintiffs and Class members seek to enjoin such unlawful deceptive acts and practices alleged above. Each Class member will be irreparably harmed unless Defendant’s unlawful actions are enjoined because Defendant will continue to mislead consumers with its deceptive advertising. Therefore, Plaintiffs and Class members request an Order prohibiting Defendant from engaging in the alleged misconduct and performing a corrective advertising campaign.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury of all claims in this Complaint so triable.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the other members of the Class proposed in this Complaint, respectfully request that the Court enter judgment in their favor and against Defendant as follows:

- A. Declaring that this action is a proper class action, certifying the Class as requested herein, designating Plaintiff, MIQUEL CARIAS, as Class Representative and appointing the undersigned counsel as Class Counsel;
- B. Ordering Defendant to pay actual damages and equitable monetary relief to Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class;
- C. Ordering Defendant to pay punitive damages, as allowable by law, to Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class;
- D. Ordering Defendant to pay statutory damages, as allowable by the statutes asserted herein, to Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class;
- E. Awarding injunctive relief as permitted by law or equity, including enjoining Defendant from continuing the unlawful practices as set forth herein, and ordering Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign;

F. Ordering Defendant to pay attorneys' fees and litigation costs to Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class;

G. Ordering Defendant to pay both pre- and post- judgment interest on any amounts awarded; and

H. Ordering such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
June 23, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

GABRIELLI LEVITT LLP

By: 

Michael J. Gabrielli (MG-2421)
2426 Eastchester Road, Suite 103
Bronx, New York 10469
Tel.: (718) 708-5322

Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class

JS 44 (Rev. 1/2013)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Miquel Carías, Mario Washington, Horacio Torres Bonilla, Iris Picone, Zena Matos and Berta P. Ortiz, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Nassau, NY
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Gabrielli Levitt LLP
2426 Eastchester Road, Suite 103, Bronx, New York 10469
(718) 708-5322

DEFENDANTS

Monsanto Company; Does 1-10, inclusive,

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant St. Louis, Missouri
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding
- 2 Removed from State Court
- 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- 6 Multidistrict Litigation

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
U.S.C. Section 1332(d)(2)

Brief description of cause:
Violation of New York General Business Law Sections 349 and 350

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ _____ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE
06/24/2015

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD
Michael J. Gabrielli (MG-2421)



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____

CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

I, Michael J. Gabrielli, counsel for Plaintiffs, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):

- monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
- the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
- the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more of its stocks:

RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that " A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

- 1.) Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County? NO
- 2.) If you answered "no" above:
 - a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County? YES
 - b) Did the events of omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? YES

If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County? _____

(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).

BAR ADMISSION

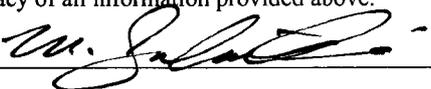
I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court.

- Yes
- No

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court?

- Yes (If yes, please explain)
- No

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: 

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

MIQUEL CARIAS, MARIO WASHINGTON,
HORACIO TORRES BONILLA, IRIS PICONE, ZENA
MATOS and BERTA P. ORTIZ, individually and on
behalf all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

MONSANTO COMPANY, a Delaware corporation;
DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No. 15 CV 3677

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)* Monsanto Company
800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63167

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Gabrielli Levitt LLP
2426 Eastchester Road
Suite 103
Bronx, New York 10469

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

DOUGLAS C. PALMER
CLERK OF COURT

Date: 06/24/2015

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

EXHIBIT A

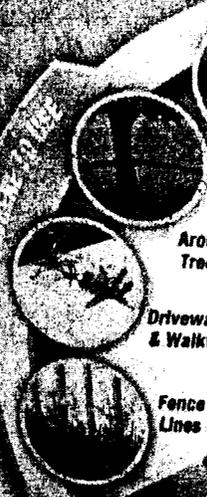
DID YOU KNOW?

Glyphosate targets an enzyme found in plants but not in people or pets.



WHERE TO USE

WHAT TO KNOW



Flower Beds

Around Trees

Driveways & Walkways

Fence Lines

Rainproof in 30 minutes

Visible Results in 3 Hours

Plant 1-3 Days After Application (see booklet for details)

Roundup

Extend Wood Decking

Connect Ropes

OPEN AIR

HOW TO USE

ROUNDUP COMPANY
Monsanto Company



Read the Assembly and Use Instructions /
Leer instrucciones para ensamblar y para usar.