

Herbicide's levels worry scientists

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WASHINGTON | Atrazine, the second most widely used weed-killer in the U.S., is showing up in some streams at levels high enough to potentially harm amphibians, fish and aquatic ecosystems.

The analysis — conducted by the chemical's manufacturer, Syngenta Crop Protection — suggests that atrazine has entered streams in the Midwest at a rate that could harm those ecosystems, several scientific experts said. In two Missouri watersheds, atrazine spiked to reach a "level of concern" in both 2004 and 2005, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Much of the data has remained private because Syngenta's survey of 40 U.S. watersheds was done in connection with the EPA's 2006 decision to renew its approval.