

Who Qualifies as an Occupational Claimant Under the New Roundup Settlement?

Work History May Determine How a Roundup Cancer Claim Is Classified

The proposed [\\$7.25 billion Roundup settlement](#) would establish a nationwide compensation program for people who developed or later develop qualifying non-Hodgkin lymphoma after exposure to Roundup products. It would also create separate classifications for occupational and residential claimants.

That distinction matters because workers with substantial job-related exposure may qualify for different compensation than people who used Roundup around a home. However, working as a farmer, landscaper, or groundskeeper does not automatically establish occupational status.

The settlement considers the amount of time a person was exposed, the type of work performed, and the income earned from that occupation. A [Roundup cancer lawyer](#) can evaluate those factors and help reconstruct an exposure history from employment, income, and product-use records. A lawyer's involvement allows victims and their families to focus on recovery and what matters most to them. They don't have to worry about paperwork. Someone who used Roundup regularly during a career may qualify even if the exposure occurred decades before retirement or diagnosis.

The Definition of an Occupational Roundup Claimant

For claimants diagnosed before age 78, occupational classification generally requires more than 80 hours of Roundup exposure while working in an agricultural, industrial, turf, or ornamental occupation.

The worker must also satisfy an employment-related income requirement. During at least one year, the worker must have earned either more than 50% of their income or more than \$15,000 from the qualifying occupation.

The principal requirements include:

- **More Than 80 Hours of Exposure:** The person must establish sufficient Roundup exposure connected to qualifying work.
- **Qualifying Occupational Work:** The exposure must have occurred through agricultural, industrial, turf, or ornamental employment.
- **Sufficient Income from the Work:** The occupation must have produced more than 50% of the person's income or over \$15,000 during at least one year.

- **Exposure Before the Cutoff:** The relevant Roundup exposure must have occurred before February 17, 2026.
- **Qualifying Cancer Diagnosis:** Compensation requires a covered non-Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosis, although the settlement also addresses people diagnosed during its future-claims period.
- **Age at Diagnosis:** The occupational compensation tiers apply to qualifying claimants diagnosed before age 78. Claimants diagnosed at age 78 or older are placed in a separate tier regardless of whether their Roundup exposure was occupational or residential.

Both the occupational exposure and income requirements matter. Someone who sprayed Roundup at work for years may still need employment or income evidence to receive occupational classification.

How the 80-Hour Exposure Requirement May Be Met

Eighty hours can sound like a large amount when someone tries to remember individual spraying sessions from 20 or 30 years ago. In a job that required weed control every season, however, exposure time can accumulate across months or years.

Exposure was not necessarily limited to the minutes spent pulling a sprayer trigger. Workers could come into contact with Roundup while preparing chemicals, handling equipment, responding to leaks, or cleaning up after an application. Depending on the circumstances, relevant exposure may have occurred during activities such as:

- **Mixing Concentrated Roundup:** Measuring and pouring concentrated herbicide into tanks could result in splashes, spills, and direct skin contact.
- **Filling Application Equipment:** Workers may have filled backpack sprayers, handheld equipment, truck-mounted tanks, or agricultural machinery.
- **Applying Roundup:** Applications could involve handheld sprayers, tractors, all-terrain vehicles, spray trucks, or other equipment.
- **Clearing Clogged Equipment:** Nozzles, hoses, pumps, and valves sometimes required workers to handle equipment containing product residue.
- **Repairing Leaks:** Broken hoses, loose connections, damaged tanks, and defective sprayers could expose workers to concentrated or diluted Roundup.
- **Cleaning Sprayers and Tanks:** Residue could remain on equipment, gloves, boots, vehicles, and work clothing after an application ended.
- **Working Near Applications:** Crew members may have experienced direct contact with Roundup while working near someone who was mixing, applying, handling, or transporting the product.

A worker may not have a record of every exposure. A consistent account of job duties can be supported by coworkers, employer records, purchasing histories, work orders, photographs, and evidence showing how vegetation was controlled at a particular property or job site.

Agricultural, Industrial, Turf, and Ornamental Work

The settlement's occupational categories cover considerably more than traditional farming. The nature of the claimant's work matters more than the job title alone.

Agricultural work can include crop farming, commercial pesticide application, orchard and vineyard operations, nursery work, greenhouse operations, and maintenance around barns, fence lines, irrigation systems, fields, and equipment yards.

Depending on the work performed, qualifying occupational exposure may arise in settings such as railroad rights of way, utility corridors, pipelines, refinery grounds, manufacturing properties, storage yards, and other commercial sites. Maintenance employees and vegetation-control crews may have treated large areas repeatedly without considering herbicide use one of their primary responsibilities.

Turf and ornamental work can include commercial landscaping, golf course maintenance, cemetery groundskeeping, municipal parks, school grounds, athletic fields, apartment complexes, office properties, and decorative planting areas. A maintenance worker who performed several different tasks may still qualify if Roundup application and related exposure were recurring parts of the job.

The Employment and Income Requirement

A [qualifying occupation](#) must have generated more than 50% of the worker's income or more than \$15,000 during at least one year. This requirement prevents every workplace encounter with Roundup from being classified as occupational exposure.

The worker does not need to have earned that amount exclusively by spraying herbicides. A landscaper may have mowed lawns, trimmed trees, installed plants, maintained irrigation systems, and applied Roundup as part of the same job. Income from the overall qualifying occupation may satisfy the requirement.

Seasonal work, self-employment, changing employers, and retirement can make an income history more difficult to document. Potential evidence may include tax returns, W-2s, 1099s, payroll records, Social Security earnings histories, business licenses, farm records, contracts, invoices, union records, and pension documents.

Retirement does not prevent occupational classification. The relevant question is whether the person met the exposure and income requirements while performing the qualifying work.

Other Settlement Requirements Still Apply

Occupational classification is only one part of eligibility. A worker must also meet the settlement's broader requirements.

The claimant must have had qualifying exposure to Roundup products before February 17, 2026. Under the proposed settlement, exposure generally means direct physical contact with Roundup during its handling or application, including contact while using the product or while nearby when someone else was mixing, applying, handling, or transporting it.

A covered non-Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosis would also be required to receive compensation under the proposed settlement. Because lymphoma names can be highly specific, a pathology report may be more important than a general description such as "blood cancer." Certain diagnoses with leukemia in their names may be included when they fall within the settlement's defined NHL classifications, but not every leukemia is covered.

Previous legal activity can also affect eligibility. A claim that was already settled and released, permanently dismissed, or included in certain existing litigation may require a different analysis. Occupational users should not assume they qualify based solely on exposure and diagnosis without having their complete history reviewed.

Proving Occupational Exposure From Years Ago

Retired workers may believe they have no claim because they discarded old Roundup containers and did not keep receipts. Those materials can help, but a person dealing with cancer is not expected to locate decades of evidence before contacting a lawyer. The legal team can take the information the worker remembers and handle the investigation from there.

Evidence used to reconstruct a work history may include:

- **Employment and Income Records:** Payroll documents, tax returns, pension records, union files, and Social Security earnings histories can establish where and when a person worked.
- **Employer Purchasing Records:** Invoices, vendor records, inventory lists, and expense reports may show that an employer regularly purchased Roundup.
- **Pesticide Application Records:** Farms, municipalities, schools, golf courses, utilities, and commercial applicators may have retained spraying logs or licensing documents.
- **Coworker Statements:** Former supervisors and crew members may remember which products were used and how frequently applications occurred.
- **Photographs and Equipment:** Old photographs may show containers, tanks, sprayers, protective equipment, work vehicles, or treated locations.

- **Job and Property Records:** Work orders, maintenance schedules, property maps, contracts, and vegetation-control plans can help establish the scale of the work.

The proposed settlement imposes specific proof requirements for occupational classification. A claimant diagnosed before age 78 must provide evidence supporting more than 80 hours of occupational exposure, and an unsworn statement about the circumstances and extent of exposure is not enough by itself. Documentary evidence of the qualifying occupation and income is also required.

Several Jobs Can Form One Exposure History

Some workers used Roundup for one employer over an entire career. Others accumulated exposure while moving among farms, landscaping companies, golf courses, municipal departments, and industrial properties. A person undergoing cancer treatment should not have to reconstruct that entire history alone.

A lawyer can begin with whatever the worker or family remembers, even if it is only a short list of employers, locations, approximate dates, and job duties. The legal team can then look for Social Security earnings records, tax documents, pension and union files, former coworkers, employer purchasing records, and other evidence connecting the worker to Roundup.

Missing dates, closed businesses, and forgotten product names do not necessarily prevent a claim. The worker provides the starting information, while the lawyer handles the investigation, obtains available records, contacts potential witnesses, and assembles the exposure history needed for the settlement claim.

Ferrell Law Group Can Investigate an Occupational Roundup Claim

[Ferrell Law Group](#) represents people nationwide in serious cancer and toxic-exposure claims. We can review a worker's diagnosis, reconstruct decades of employment, locate supporting records, and determine whether the person qualifies as an occupational claimant under the new settlement.

[Smoking](#) or having other cancer risk factors does not by itself determine whether someone meets the proposed settlement's eligibility requirements. Eligibility depends on the settlement's defined exposure, diagnosis, documentation, and other applicable criteria. For more than 30 years, our firm has handled high-stakes exposure cases and recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for clients and families. We have the resources to investigate closed businesses, former employers, historical product use, and complicated work histories while the client focuses on treatment and family.

If you or a loved one developed non-Hodgkin lymphoma after using Roundup while farming, landscaping, maintaining grounds, or performing other qualifying work, [contact us](#) for a free consultation. Most of the process can be handled by phone, mail, and electronic records, and we can travel to clients when needed. There is no fee unless we recover compensation for you.