



# The United Sludge-Free Alliance Recommended Reading

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## Sewer sludge = more potential concerns for White House and Seattle-area organic gardens

August 9, 2:06 AM ▪ [Seattle Green Living Examiner](#) ▪ David Kuhns



Wastewater treatment plants like King County's could help create and spread antibiotic resistant diseases, especially through sewer sludge like that spread on the White House lawn-turned-organic garden.

### **Obama's organic garden: Disease-laden problems?**

New concerns are being raised as to whether the Obama White House organic garden and other similar urban/suburban gardens -- including those in the Seattle area -- are safe to eat out of.

[Previous articles here](#) and elsewhere pointed out that the lead content in the White House vegetable garden is 97ppm. Contamination is thought to be caused by the application of sewer plant "sludge" or bio-solids -- as a fertilizer -- on the White House lawn, primarily during the Clinton administration. That lawn treatment is similar to "GroCo" bio-solids produced in King County.

### **Wastewater treatment sludge / biosolids may contain super-pathogens with antibiotic resistance**

There could be much bigger issues: Some scientists claim that current wastewater treatment plant practices do not remove pathogens immune to various anti-biotics and chlorine. In fact, some say that the wastewater treatment facilities combination of contaminated fecal matter may be allowing the spread of so-called "super-pathogens". Using sewer sludge to treat gardens could encourage the spread of these super-pathogens.

*In other words, literally: "Eat sh\*\* and die".*

Contrary to popular myth, sewer plants, including King County's wastewater treatment plants that produce a compost-like material from sewer sludge, fail to kill pathogens. Experts claim the process of sewage treatment may augment the levels of antibiotic resistance and virulence within pathogens.

This may be especially dangerous as wastewater treatment plants sell composted sewer sludge to unsuspecting customers to use on their gardens and yards. While King County's composted waste bi-product, marketed as "GroCo", claims to be safe for application on gardens, some say the currently-used water quality laboratory tests, as demanded by EPA governmental standards, fail to accurately reflect the true extent of contained pathogens.

[Another article shows toxic issues faced by the Obama's White House garden and other urban gardens.](#)

A video on the City of Sequim's wastewater treatment plant showing how sludge evolves into a Class A bio-solid for use on flower beds and elsewhere.

Seattle Green Living Examiner David Kuhns writes web content as <http://www.cyranowriter.com>. He used to use Milorganite and other sewage sludge-turned-compost biosolids on his lawn and garden, but is now rethinking the practice.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-17874-Seattle-Green-Living-Examiner~y2009m8d9-Eat-s-and-die-Sewer-sludge--more-potential-problems-for-White-House-organic-victory-garden?#comments> for video and reader comments.