

# Herbicide Company “Genealogy”

Compiled by Dr. Arnold Appleby, Emeritus  
Oregon State University



The following chart is intended to show the history of the major U.S. herbicide companies. The information depends largely on people’s memories, which sometimes can be inexact, on records from the headquarters of major companies, and from histories on the internet. No guarantees are made for accuracy, although I think it is close. The dates of the founding of companies or of acquisitions and mergers sometime vary slightly from one reference to another, so they should not be considered as solid historical facts.

Only U.S. companies are listed. International companies are listed only if they had subsidiaries in the U.S., such as Bayer or BASF. I have tried to include mergers or acquisitions of entire companies or the ag divisions of companies, but acquisition of individual products are mentioned only occasionally. In many cases, the major company continues in existence and it is the agricultural division that becomes part of another company. Example: Aventis sold its ag products division to Bayer while the pharmaceutical portion of Aventis continues. Acquisitions of seed companies are not included.

The major companies included are those with a history of synthesis, screening, and development of herbicides in the U.S., even if their parent company is overseas. This excludes marketing companies, post-patent distributors, and those companies dealing only with non-herbicide pesticides. Some companies have a distinguished herbicide history but no longer develop new herbicides. These are so noted.

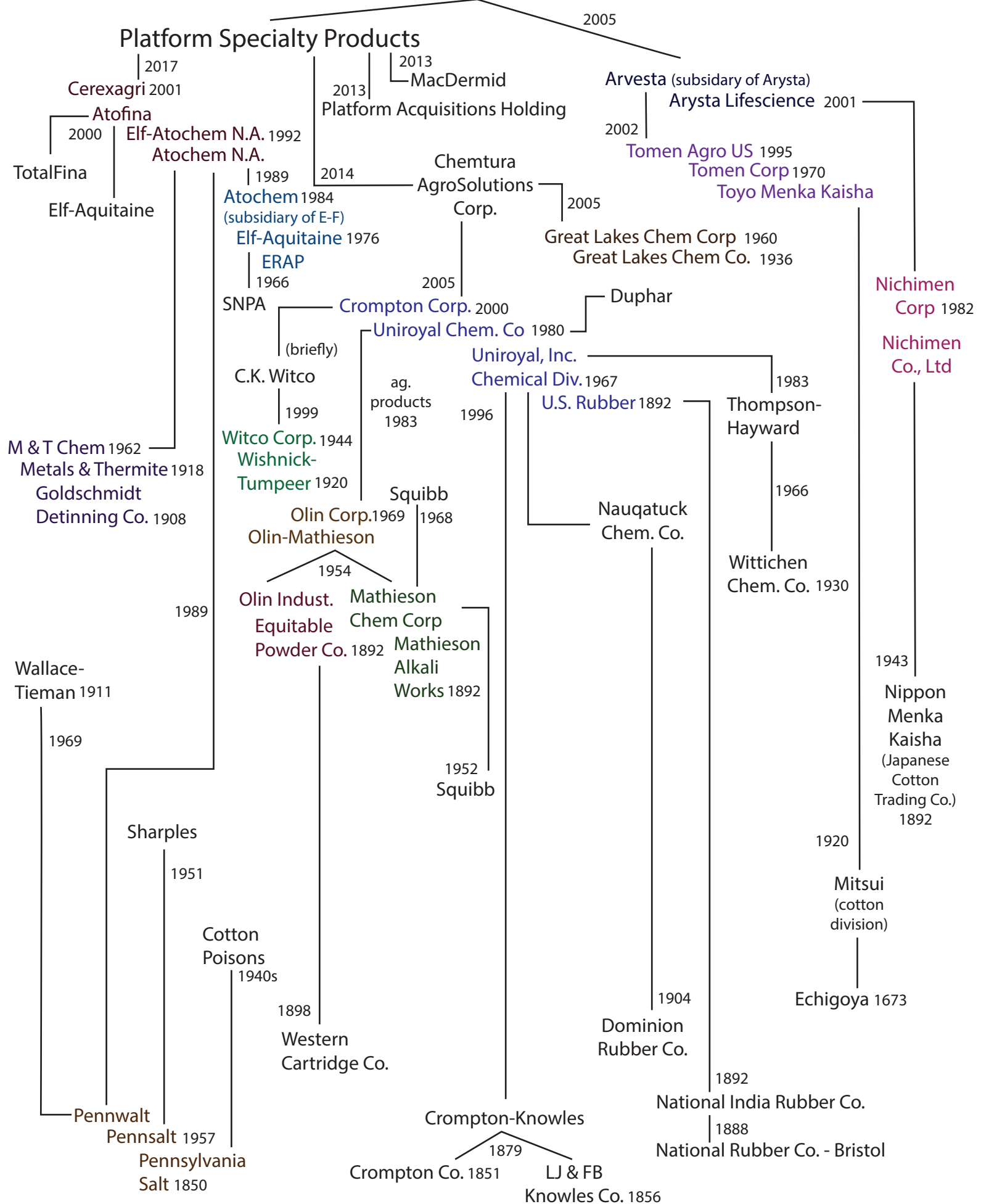
Numerous companies and individuals have been consulted and have been very helpful. But I have not always followed suggestions exactly if I felt I had more accurate information from a different source, so all the errors and omissions are mine.

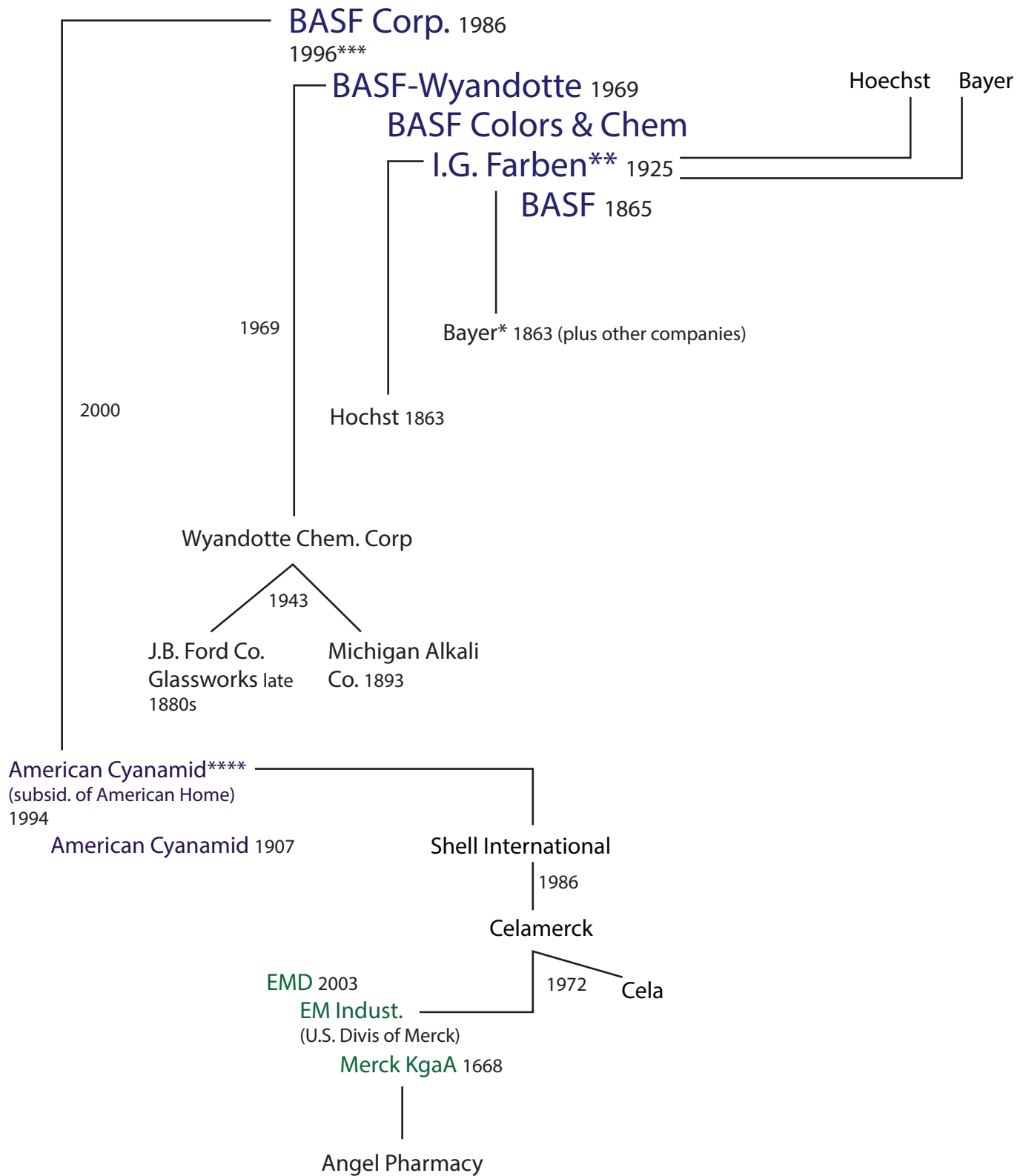
Dr. Arnold Appleby, Emeritus, Oregon State University February 2018

NOTE: Dr. Appleby passed away on December 6, 2018.

NOTE: For the 2022 WSWS History Dr. Appleby’s genealogy has been re-formatted for easier reading. Any errors and omissions in this version are unintended and are mine. Vanelle Peterson, editor

# Arysta Lifescience North America LLC





\* BASF comes from Badische Anilin & Soda Fabrik)

\*\* I.G. Farben dissolved in 1945 and 12 companies emerged in 1951 including the original three major ones

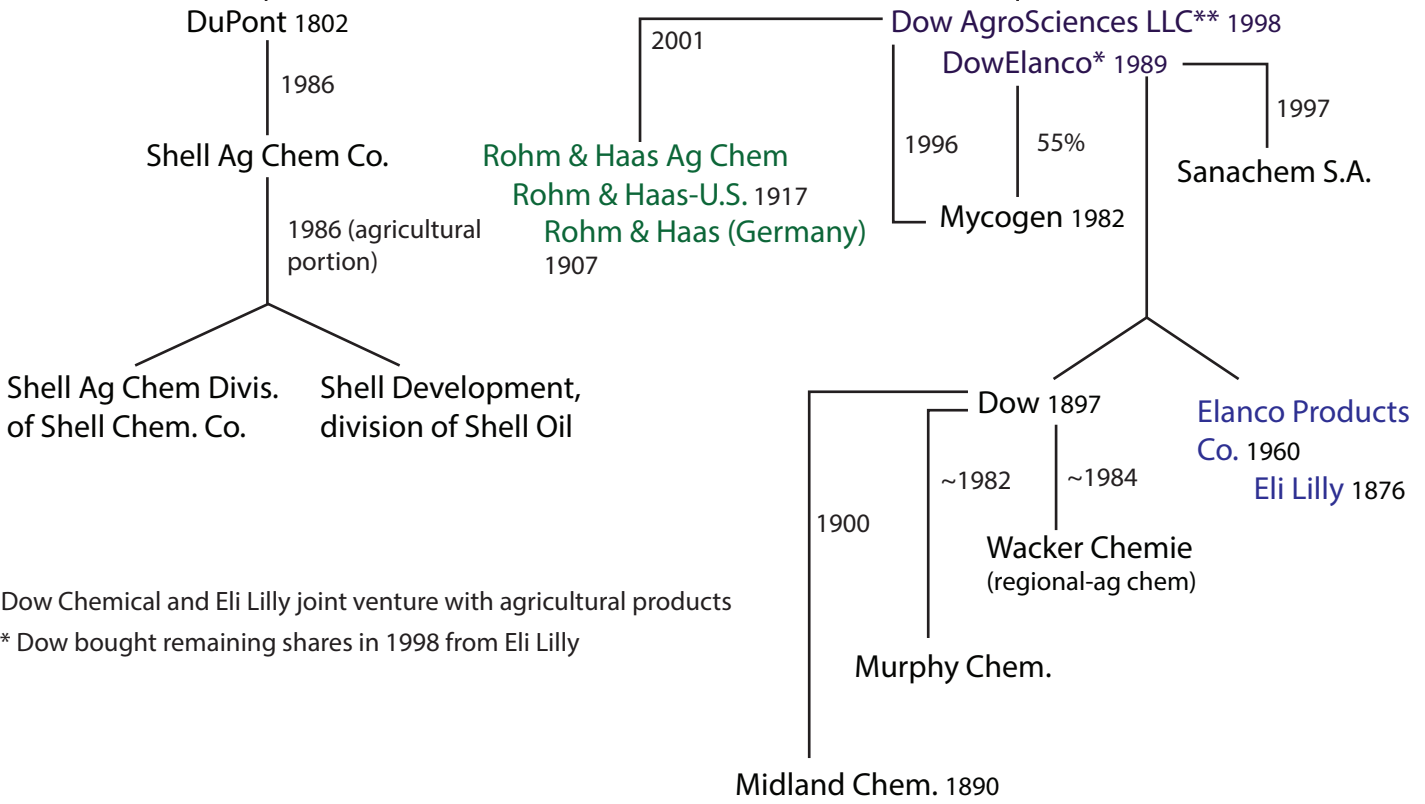
\*\*\* BASF acquired Sandoz corn herbicides and some personnel--1996 when Sandoz merged with Ciba

\*\*\*\* Home & Garden to Rhone Poulenc in 1990; Celamerck in Germany; sold to Scotts in 1998



# Corteva

Dow/DuPont 2016



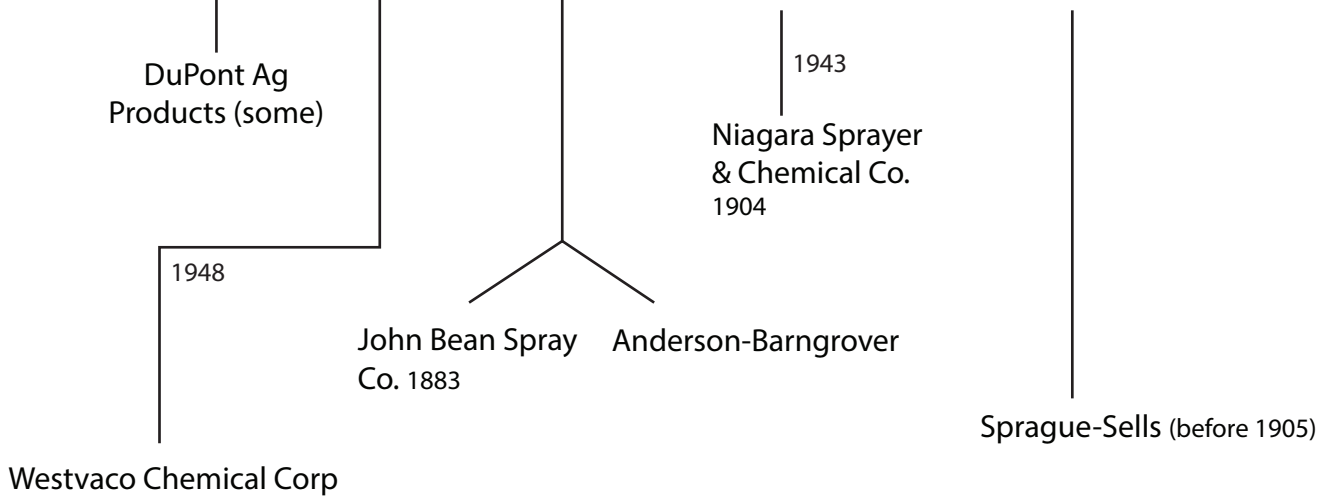
\* Dow Chemical and Eli Lilly joint venture with agricultural products

\*\* Dow bought remaining shares in 1998 from Eli Lilly

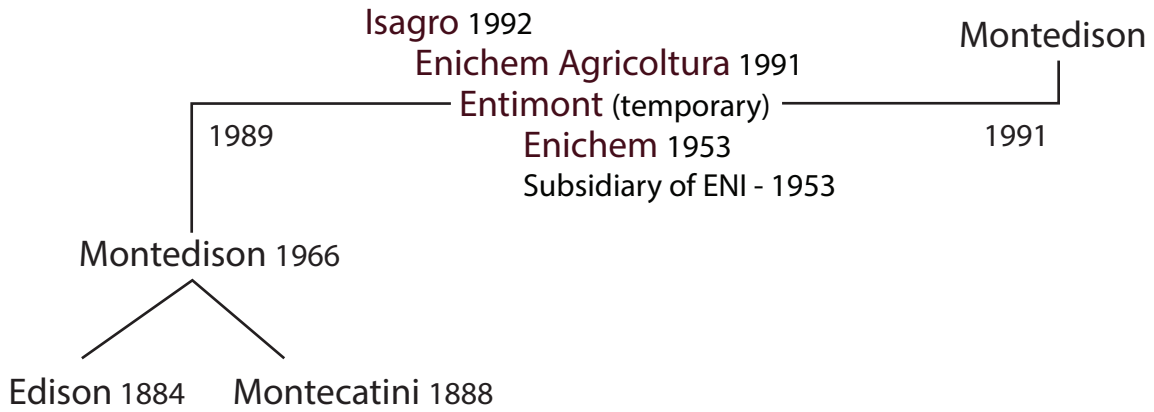
# FMC Corp. 1961

Food Mach. & Chem. Corp 1948

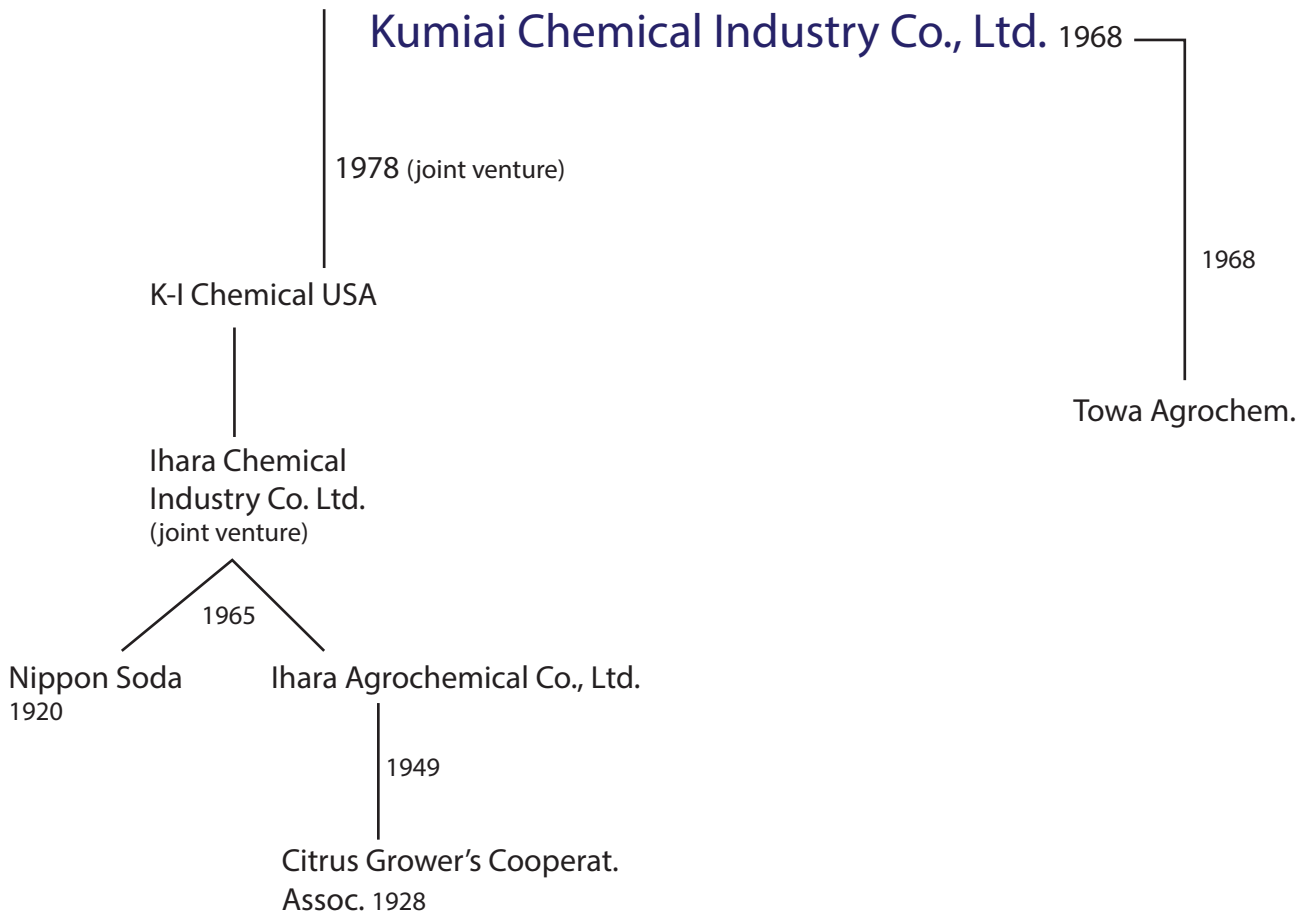
Food Machinery Corp (FMC) 1928



# Isagro USA 2003

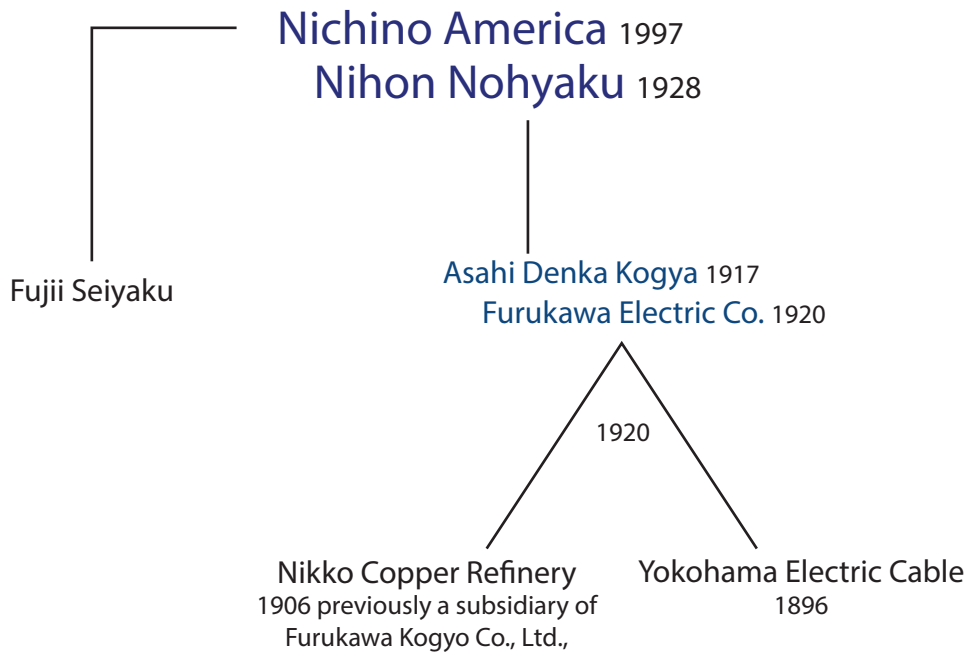
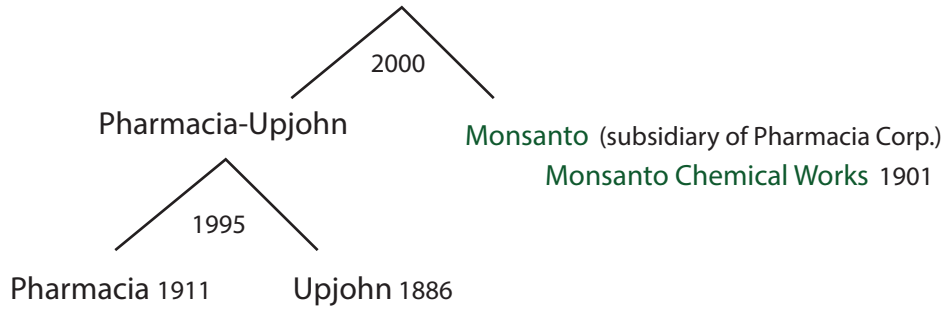


# Kumiai America 1970



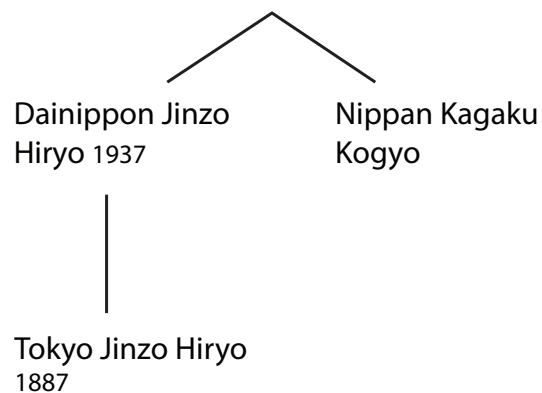
## Monsanto Co. 2002

**Monsanto** (subsidiary of Pharmacia Corp.)



## Nissan Chemical America Corp. 1989

### Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd.



**PPG Industries** (no longer in agr. chem.)

**PPG Industries** 1968

Some products to Chevron, some to American Cyanamid

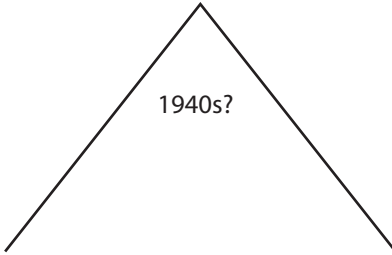
**Pittsburgh Plate Glass** 1883



Columbia-Southern Chem.

(Chemical Division of Pittsburgh Plate Glass)

1940s?

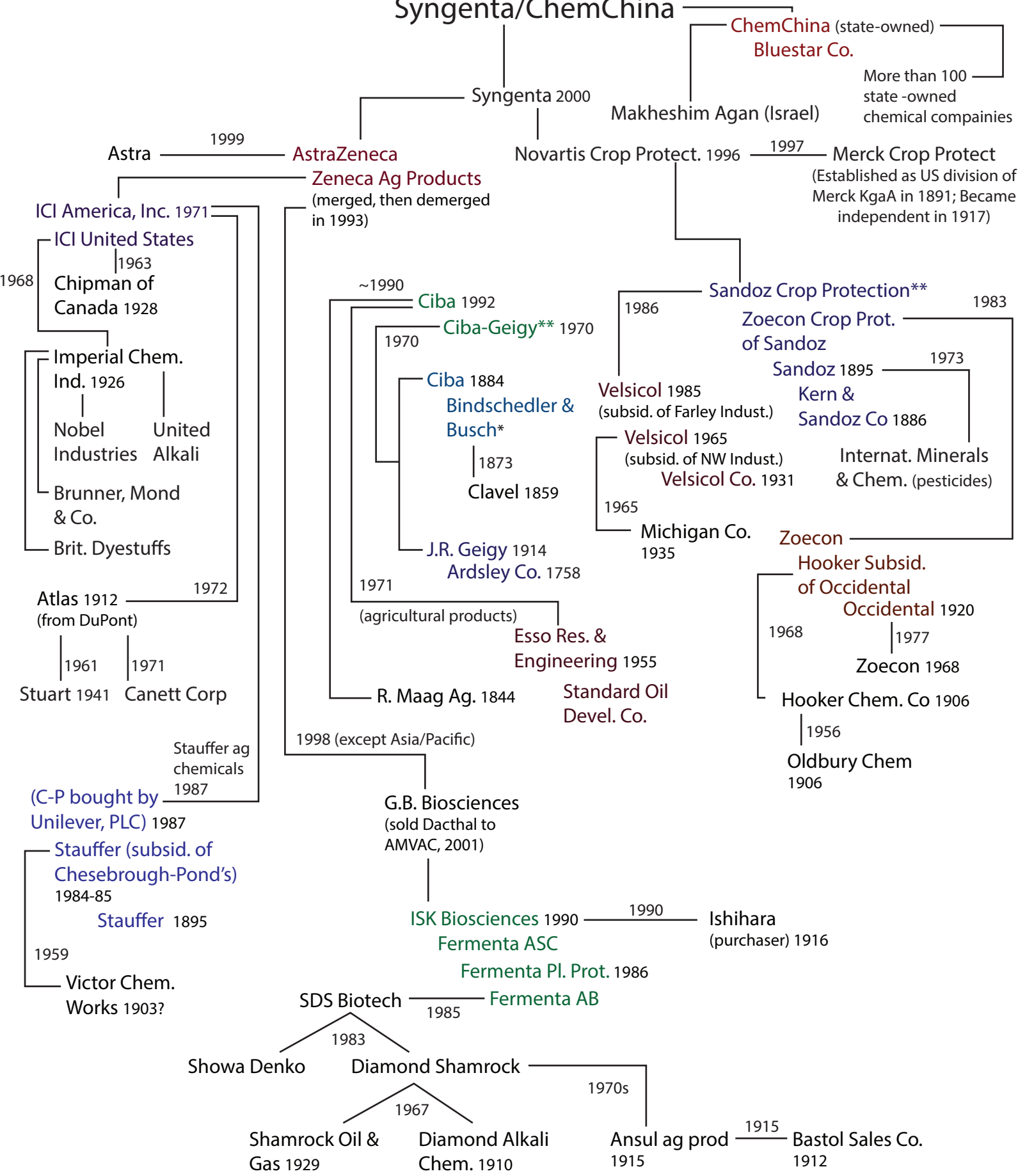


Columbia Chem. Co. 1899

Southern Alkali Co. 1930-1934?

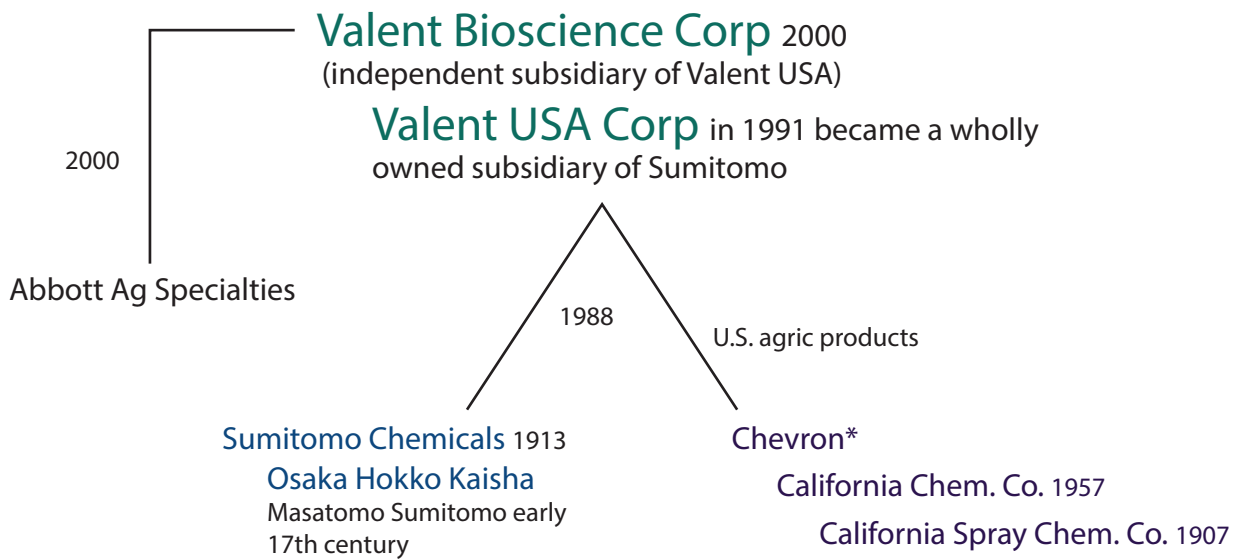


# Syngenta/ChemChina



\* In 1884, Bindschedler & Busch became "Gesellschaft fur Chemische Industrie Basel". The abbreviation "Ciba" became so common it became Ciba in 1945

\*\* Basel AG was a cartel of Ciba, Sandoz, and Geigy from 1918 to 1951



\* Chevron ex-U.S. agric products to Tomen Agro. and Rhone Paulenc  
 Chevron lawn and garden (Ortho) to Monsanto (Solaris Divis. in 1993). These products then sold to Scotts in 1998.

## Other Companies

Besides the 80-some names included in the preceding chart, there were other companies that were once associated with herbicides. Some are still companies, such as PPG, but are no longer in the herbicide business. Some apparently sold any products and ceased to exist. Some perhaps were primarily distributors and owned no products of their own, although I have omitted what I perceive to be strictly marketing companies or herbicide distributors.

Following is a partial list along with examples of products that were associated with them.

NOTE: Dr. Appleby passed away on December 6, 2018.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Herbicides</u>
<b>Agrolinz</b>	Sold pyridate to Sandoz in the 1990s.
<b>Air Products</b>	AP-20
<b>Allied Chem. (General Chem. Div.)</b>	HCA. Urox, Urab (Some products to Hopkin Products. Since dropped.) <b>United Ag</b>
<b>Antara</b>	Primarily wetting agents
<b>Atlas and Hercules</b>	Atlas had Atlacide (later sold by Chipman), Hercules had Herban and Antor. Hercules formed in 1882 jointly by Laflin & Rand and DuPont. Because of antitrust action, Atlas and Hercules were formed from DuPont in 1912. Atlas was purchased by ICI in 1971 and Hercules merged with Boots.
<b>Buckman Labs.</b>	Buban
<b>Esso (Standard Oil of NJ) –ag chem sold to Ciba-Geigy. Name then changed to Exxon.</b>	Stoddart solvent, Tolban sold to Ciba-Geigy.
<b>PBI-Gordon</b>	Private Brands, Inc. was formed in 1947. It bought Gordon Corp. in 1956 and company name became PBI-Gordon in 1970. It worked with many major companies as formulator and packager. Were associated with phenoxes, diclofenil, Embark, et al. Now market phenoxy formulations, primarily for lawn care, including TrlMec.
<b>3 M</b>	Destun, Sustar, Embark was sole to PBI-Gordon.
<b>Reichhold</b>	Na PCP
<b>Sharples</b>	Introduced endothall in 1951. Became subsidiary of Pennsylvania Salt Co. in 1951, and their chem. products integrated in 1955.
<b>Spencer → Gulf</b>	Clobber, Outfox, Topcide, Prefox. Carbyne sold to Velsicol.
<b>Sunco</b>	Major supplier of Stoddart Solvent.
<b>Tenneco</b>	TCH-1626. TCH- 1636
<b>U.S. Borax</b>	Borascu, Borolin, Ureabor, Cobex (Some products to Occidental; Cobex now produced by Wacker in Germany)
<b>Vertac</b>	dinoseb, manufactured and distributed several generic chemicals
<b>Vineland</b>	organic arsenicals