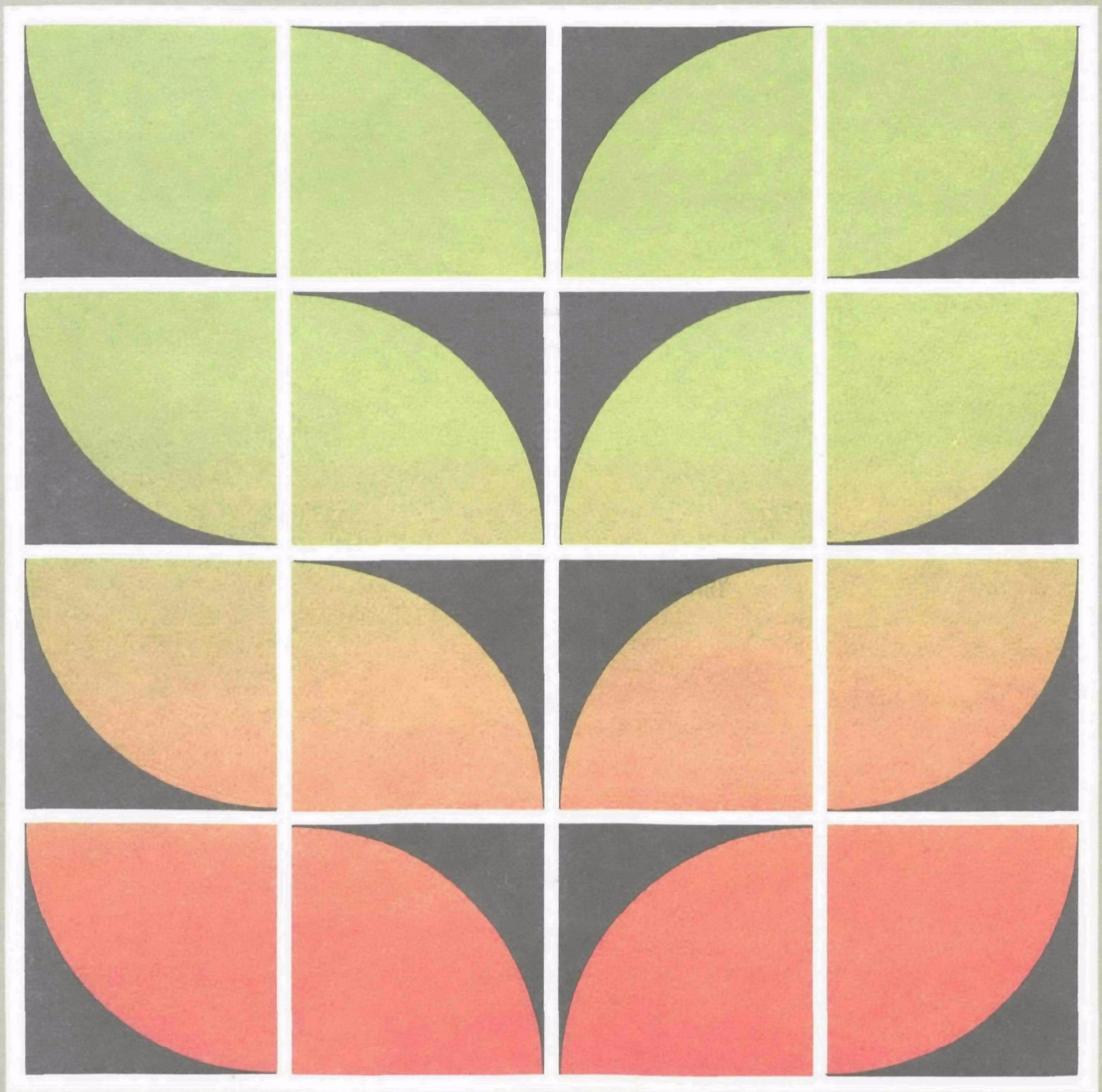
Apply Pesticides Correctly

A guide for commercial applicators

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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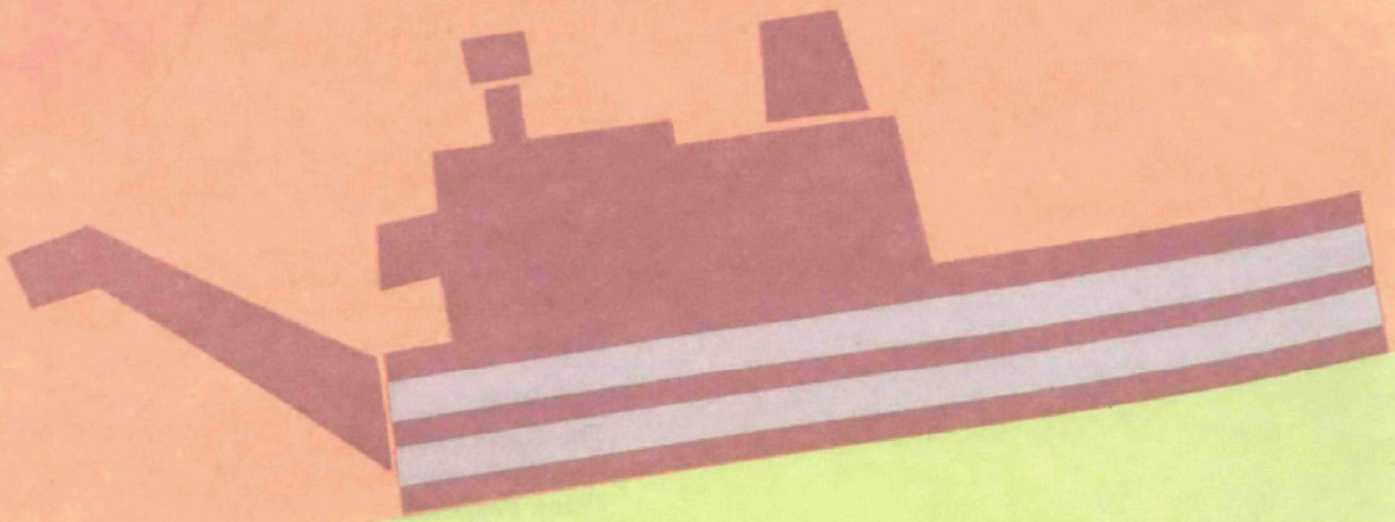

Preface

This guide has been developed by the Pesticide Operations Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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Introduction

Federal regulations set general and specific standards that you must meet before you can use certain pesticides. This guide contains basic information to help you meet the *general* standards. Because the guide is for use by all categories of commercial applicators, some parts of it may not concern you. The guide does not include the things you need to know to meet *specific* standards required for your job by Federal regulations or State law. Your State Pesticide Regulatory Agency and your Cooperative Extension Service can give you this additional information.

This guide will tell you:

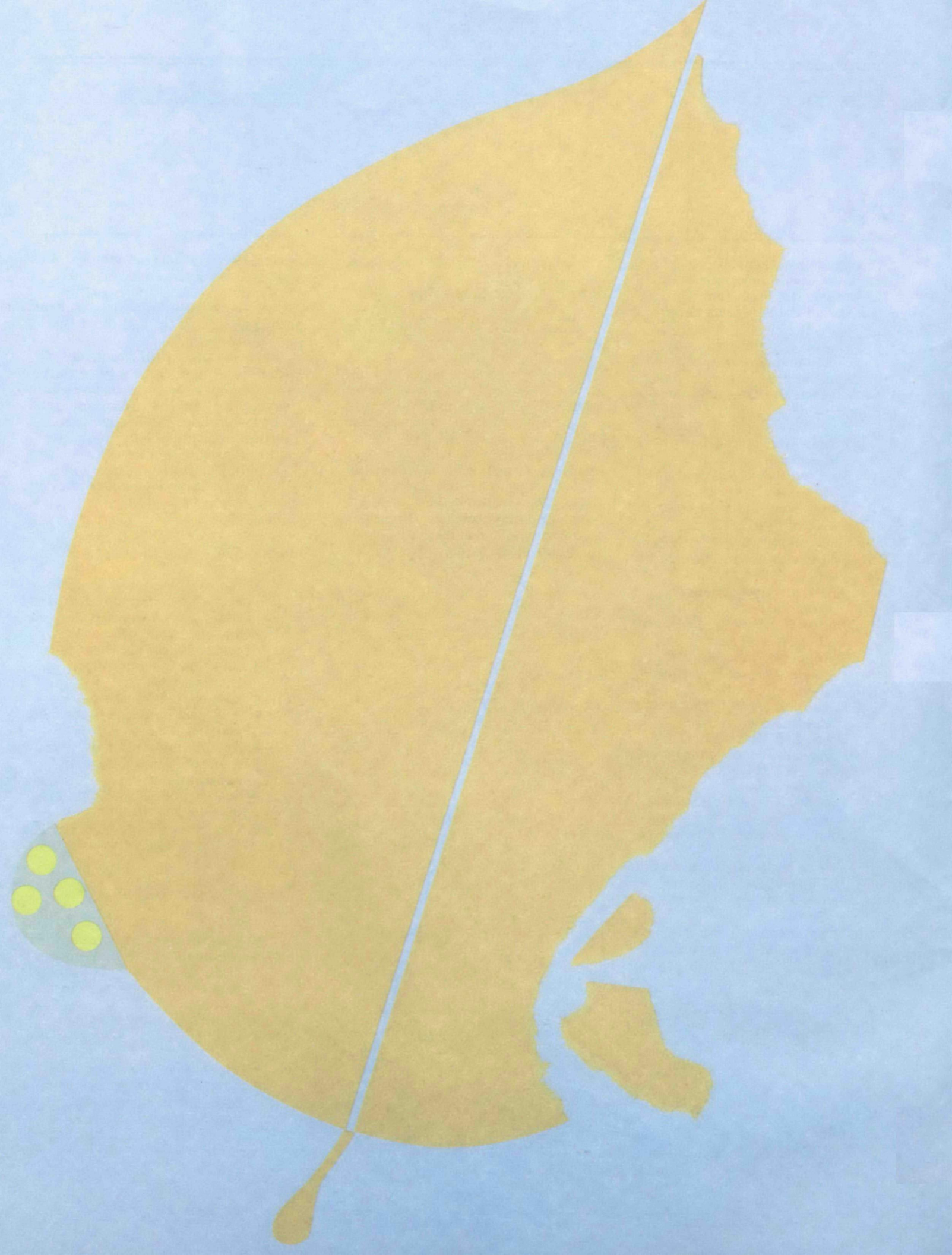
- the most common features of pests, how they develop, and the kinds of damage they do,
- methods you can use to control pests and how to combine these methods for the best results,
- how pesticides work,
- how pesticide labels can help you,
- how to use pesticides so they will not harm you or the environment,
- how to choose, use, and care for equipment, and
- the Federal laws that apply to the things you do on the job.

The test for certification will be based on:

- general information, and
- problems and situations that occur in the specific kinds of pest control jobs you do.

You will have to show that you know:

- the pests you control, and
- how to use the pesticides and application equipment needed in your job.



Pests

The first step in solving any problem is to understand what is causing it. So the first step in your job is to recognize the pests you need to control.

We favor certain plants and animals that provide us food and fiber. But we also provide good growing conditions for other plants and animals that harm them. These living things that compete with us for food and fiber, or attack us directly, are *pests*. The living plant or animal a pest depends on for survival is called the *host*.

Pests can be put into five main groups:

- insects (plus mites, ticks, and spiders),
- snails and slugs,
- vertebrates,
- weeds, and
- plant disease agents.

Most applicators know most of the pests they see on the job. But sometimes unfamiliar pests may appear. You can get identification aids, publications, and pictures to help find out what they are. But the best thing to do is to contact local experts. Ask the Cooperative Extension Service or a competent consultant to help you.

Insects

Insects thrive in more environments than any other group of animals. They live not only on the earth's surface but within the soil and in water. They are at home in deserts, rain forests, hot springs, snow fields, and dark caves. They eat the choicest foods of man's table. They can even eat the table.

Many types of insects affect crops. They cause damage in a variety of ways. They may:

- feed on leaves,
- tunnel or bore in stems, stalks, and branches,
- feed on and tunnel in roots,
- feed on and in seeds and nuts,
- suck the sap from leaves, stems, roots, fruits, and flowers, and
- carry plant disease agents.

The plants are damaged, weakened, or killed. This causes reduced yields, lowered quality, and ugly plants or plant products that cannot be sold. Even after harvest, insects continue their damage in the stored or processed products. Insects also feed on and in man and other animals. Some of these pests carry disease agents which have caused millions of deaths to man and livestock.

Not all insects are pests. Some help man by doing such things as pollinating plants or feeding on other insects that are pests.

Recognizing Common Features of Insects

All adult insects have two things in common—they have six jointed legs and three body regions. But how do you tell one insect from another? The most important parts to look at are *wings* and *mouthparts*. Some insects have no wings. Others have two or four. The wings vary in shape, size, thickness, and structure. Insects with chewing mouthparts have toothed jaws that bite and tear the food. Insects with piercing-sucking mouthparts have a long beak which they force into a plant or animal to suck out fluids or blood.

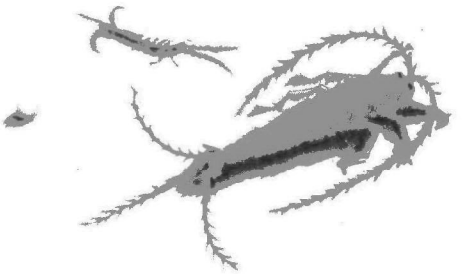
Almost all insects change in shape, form, and size during their lives. This change is called metamorphosis.

Some insects change only in size as they develop. The adult lays eggs. A nymph which looks like a tiny adult hatches from the egg and goes through several stages. These nymphs change into wingless adults.

Some insects change form slightly. Their nymphs hatch from eggs. These nymphs, which have no wings, go through several growing stages. They change into winged adults.

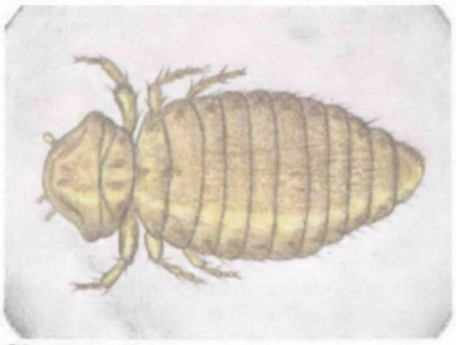
Other insects change completely. They go through four stages. The *larva* hatches from an *egg*. It is a worm, caterpillar, grub, or maggot. This is the stage in which these insects grow the most and do the most damage. When full-grown, the larva changes into a *pupa*. During this stage it changes into the *adult*. The adult stage usually has wings.

Here are the insect groups that include most of the insects which man considers pests. You should be familiar with the characteristics of each group that you control and the type of damage each group does.



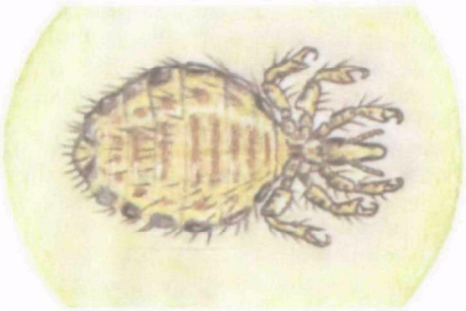
Bristletails

- No wings.
- Chewing mouthparts.
- Usually have two or three long tails.
- Young and adult look alike (no change in form).
- Usually found in houses and other buildings.
- Feed on plant fiber cloth and all starches.
- Silverfish and firebrats belong in this group.



Chewing Lice

- No wings.
- Chewing mouthparts.
- Broad head.
- Young and adult look alike.
- Usually found on birds. They cause skin irritation and reduced weight gain and egg production.

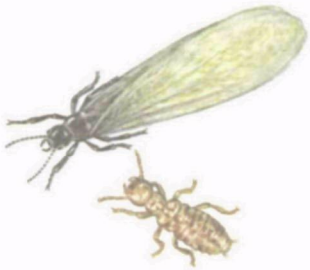


Sucking Lice

- No wings.
- Piercing-sucking mouthparts.
- Narrow head.
- Young and adults look alike.
- Some feed on livestock.
- Some carry disease agents.
- Their bites may be painful and cause itching.
- Human body, head, and pubic (crab) lice belong in this group.

Thrips

- Some have fringed wings; others have no wings.
- Combination of chewing (rasping) and sucking mouthparts.
- Young and adults look alike.
- Usually found in flowers or buds of plants.
- May cause misshapen or poorly developed flowers, buds, fruits, and leaves.

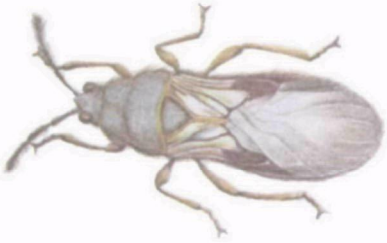


Termites

- Swarming termites have four wings of equal size and shape; others are white and have no wings.
- Chewing mouthparts.
- Young and adults look alike.
- Usually feed on wood products such as fence posts, timbers, and flooring.
- Damage to the wood in homes and other structures is common.

Grasshoppers, Crickets, and Cockroaches

- Some have wings; some do not have fully developed wings. Top pair of wings is leathery.
- Chewing mouthparts.
- Young and adults look alike, but young lack wings.
- Grasshoppers usually feed on plant leaves and stems.
- Crickets are found in the field or indoors. They eat almost anything made from plants.
- Cockroaches often occur in restaurants, houses, stores, and offices. They eat the same foods that man does.

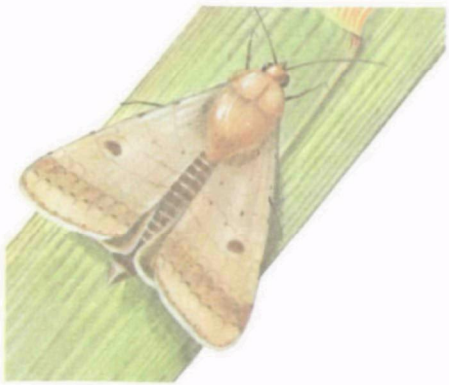


True Bugs

- Some have wings; some do not. Top pair of wings is part leathery and part transparent.
- Piercing-sucking mouthparts.
- Young and adults look alike, but young lack wings.
- Suck the juice from plants and blood from man and animals.
- Reduce the vitality and yield of plants and animals, and may carry plant and animal disease agents.
- Bedbugs are in this group.

Aphids, Leafhoppers, Spittlebugs, and Scale Insects

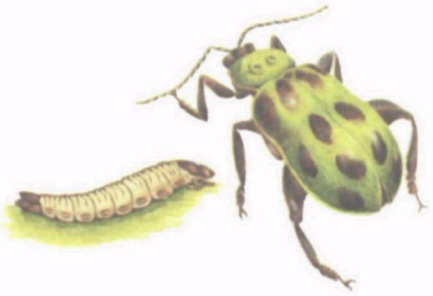
- Some have wings; some do not.
- Piercing-sucking mouthparts.
- Young of aphids, leafhoppers, and spittlebugs look like the adults.
- Adult scale insects are scale-covered and stay in one place on the plant.
- Suck the juices from plants.
- Reduce the vitality and yield of plants.
- Some carry plant disease agents.



Moths and Butterflies

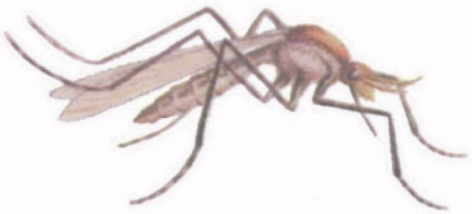
- Most adults have four large wings with many scales that rub off easily.
- Most moths are a dull brown color; butterflies are brightly colored.
- Mouthparts of some adults are lacking or are a coiled tube used for sucking.

- Larvae are caterpillars, usually with six jointed legs and ten soft, fleshy legs.
- Larvae have chewing mouthparts.
- Larval stages are important pests on many crops. They damage leaves, stems, tubers, fruit, and cloth.
- Clothes moths are in this group.



Beetles

- Adults with the two top wings usually hard and shiny and the bottom wings transparent.
- Chewing mouthparts.
- Young are grubs or worms. Some have no legs; others have six.
- Young and adults are found on plants, in soil, and in wood in buildings.
- Both the adult and larval stages may damage stored food products, plants, and, in some cases, animals and animal products.



Flies and Mosquitoes

- Adults have only two wings (other winged insects have four).
- Mouthparts of adults piercing-sucking, but may be slightly modified for sponging, rasping, or cutting.
- Young (except mosquitoes) are maggots.
- Head of young usually not well-defined; mouthparts are small, dark, and hooklike.
- Young mosquitoes live in water. They have a well-developed head with chewing mouthparts.
- Maggots usually feed on plant seedlings and roots, in organic matter, in water, and in other damp places.
- Some maggots feed on animals.
- Some adults carry disease agents.
- Some flies or mosquitoes in large numbers reduce the production efficiency of animals.

Bees, Wasps, Ants, and Sawflies

- Most adults have a narrow waist; sawflies are an exception.
- Some have four wings; some have none.
- Chewing mouthparts.
- Most young wormlike with no legs. The young of sawflies are caterpillar-like.
- Young usually in nests in soil, or made of mud, paper, or wax.
- Painful sting of many adults makes some of these a pest. Others may damage wood products.

Mites, Ticks, and Spiders

Mites, ticks, and spiders are closely related to insects. The main differences are that the adults have eight jointed legs instead of six and have two body regions. They do not have wings.

Recognizing Common Features of Mites, Ticks, and Spiders

Mites

- Adults and nymphs have eight legs; larvae have six.
- Very small—about the size of the period at the end of this line.
- No wings.
- Sucking mouthparts.
- Soft-bodied.
- Injury they cause usually is noticed before the mites are found.
- When present on plants in large numbers, their feeding turns foliage and buds whitish, reddish, or brown. Some may scar fruit.
- Some mites make thin webs on plants.
- On animals, they cause severe skin irritation, redness, scabs, and scaliness.
- Chiggers (also called jiggers and red bugs) that attack man are mites.

Ticks

- Adults and nymphs have eight legs; larvae have six.
- Leathery or soft (sometimes colored) body without a distinct head.

- Piercing-sucking mouthparts with which they firmly attach themselves to the host animal.
- Parasitic on animals, including man.
- Must have blood to complete their life cycle.
- Some carry disease agents to man and animals.

Spiders

- Eight legs.
- Biting mouthparts.
- Vary in length from a fraction of an inch to 5 or 6 inches.
- Useful to man because they eat insects, but webs and excretions may be a nuisance.
- Black widow and brown recluse bites are dangerous to man.

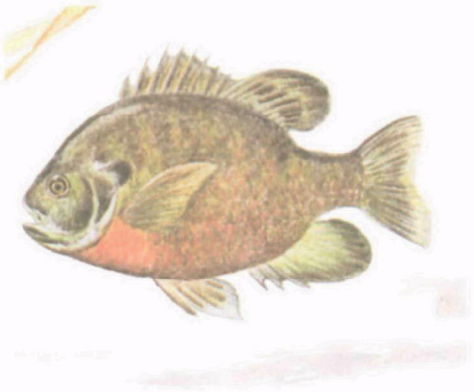
Snails and Slugs

Snails and slugs are members of a large group of animals called

mollusks. Snails have a hard shell; slugs have no shell. They feed on plant foliage. They are pests in lawns, landscape plantings, and greenhouses.

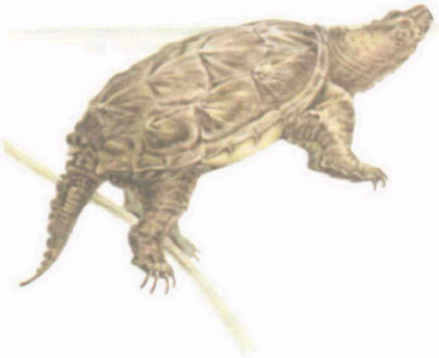
Recognizing Common Features of Vertebrates

All vertebrate animals have a jointed backbone. They include fish, snakes, turtles, alligators, lizards, frogs, toads, salamanders, birds, and mammals. What may be a pest animal in some situations may be highly desirable in others. A muskrat, for instance, is a fur-bearing animal, but its burrows may weaken man-made earthen dams.



Fish

Man has caused most fish problems. We have put some kinds where they normally would not have been. We think some fish are undesirable because they are not useful for sport or for food. Others compete with more desirable species. Some fish are intermediate hosts for parasites of man.



Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles (snakes, lizards, turtles, and alligators) and amphibians (frogs, toads, and salamanders) may cause local problems. Although most of them do little damage, many people fear or dislike them. Poisonous snakes can be a real problem. So can snakes and turtles in fish hatcheries or waterfowl production areas.

Birds

Bird damage can be quite varied. It includes:

- structural damage by woodpeckers,
- destruction of feed and of fruit, nut, grain, timber, and vegetable crops by seed- and fruit-eating birds,
- hazards to animal and human health caused by birds like pigeons and parakeets, and
- annoyance caused by birds roosting near dwellings.

Peck marks, location of damage, tracks, feathers, and droppings are signs of bird damage.

Mammals

Damage by mammals is varied. Some cause serious health problems to livestock and humans. Disease agents mammals transmit to man cause rabies, plague, food poisoning, and tularemia. Killing of other animals by mammals is costly. Some damage fruit, vegetable, nut, grain, range, and tree crops. The damage they do to dams and ditches can be very costly. They damage such things as lawns, clothing, furniture, and buildings by gnawing and burrowing. Mice and rats annoy by living in our homes, offices, and factories.

How do you tell what mammal caused the damage? You can eliminate some suspects if you know:

- which animals are found in your part of the country,
- what kinds of places they live in, and
- what their habits are.

Animal signs (tracks, droppings, toothmarks, diggings, burrows, hair, and scent) plus the type of damage will give you further clues.

Weeds

A weed is simply "a plant out of place". Weeds are a problem because:

- they reduce crop yields,
- they increase costs of production,
- they reduce quality of crop and livestock products,
- some cause skin irritation and hay fever. Some are poisonous to man, his livestock, and wildlife, and
- they spoil the beauty of turf and landscape plants.

Recognizing Common Features of Weeds

Before you can control weeds, you need to know something about how they grow. One important feature is the length of their life cycle.

Annuals

Plants with a one-year life cycle are *annuals*. They grow from seed, mature, and produce seed for the next generation in one year or less. They may be grasslike (crabgrass and foxtail) or broadleaved (pigweed and cocklebur).

Summer annuals are plants that result from seeds which sprout in the spring. They grow, mature, produce seed, and die before winter. Examples: crabgrass, foxtail, cocklebur, pigweed, and lambsquarters.

Winter annuals are plants that grow from seeds which sprout in the fall. They grow, mature, produce seed, and die before summer. Examples: cheat, henbit, and annual bluegrass.

Biennials

Plants with a two-year life cycle are *biennials*. They grow from seed and develop a heavy root and compact cluster of leaves the first year. In the second year they mature, produce seed, and die. Examples: mullein, burdock, and bull thistle.

Perennials

Plants which live more than two years and may live indefinitely are *perennials*. During the winter, many lose their foliage and the stems of others may die back to the ground. Some grow from seed. Others produce tubers, bulbs, rhizomes (below-ground rootlike stems), or stolons (above-ground stems that produce roots). Examples: Johnson grass, field bindweed, dandelion, and plantain.

Creeping perennials produce seeds but also produce rhizomes and stolons. Examples: Bermuda grass, Johnson grass, and field bindweed.

Simple perennials normally reproduce by seeds. But root pieces may produce new plants following mechanical injury during cultivation. Examples: dandelions, plantain, trees, and shrubs.

Bulbous perennials may reproduce by seed, bulblets, or bulbs. Wild garlic, for example, produces seed and bulblets above ground and bulbs below ground.

Recognizing Common Features of Plant Diseases

A plant disease is any harmful condition that makes a plant different from a normal plant in its appearance or function. Plant diseases are divided into two groups based on their cause.

Non-parasitic Plant Diseases

These are caused by non-living agents. The causes can include such things as:

- nutrient deficiency,
- extreme cold or heat,
- toxic chemicals (air pollutants, some pesticides, salts, too much fertilizer),
- mechanical injury, and
- lack of or too much water.

These diseases cannot be passed from one plant to another.

Parasitic Plant Diseases

These are caused by living agents which live and feed on or in plants. They can be passed from one plant to another. The most common causes of parasitic diseases are:

- fungi,
- bacteria,
- viruses (viroids and mycoplasmas), and
- nematodes.

Insects, which were discussed earlier, can be another cause. A few seed-producing plants and some microbes can cause plant diseases, too.

Three things are required before a parasitic disease can develop:

- a susceptible host plant,
- a parasitic agent, and
- an environment favorable for parasite development.

Fungi are plants that lack green color (chlorophyll). They cannot make their own food. There are more than 100,000 kinds of fungi of many types and sizes. Not all are harmful, and many are helpful to man. Many are microscopic, but some, such as the mushrooms, may become quite large. Most fungi reproduce by spores, which function about the same way seeds do. Fungi may attack a plant both above and below the soil surface.

Smut

Fungus diseases include apple scab, anthracnose of beans, smut in corn, and powdery mildew on landscape plants.

Bacteria are microscopic, one-celled plants. They usually reproduce by simply dividing in half. Each half becomes a fully developed bacterium. Bacteria can build up fast under ideal conditions. Some can divide every 30 minutes. Fireblight of pears, halo blight of beans, and bacterial leaf spot on peaches are caused by bacteria.

Leaf Spot

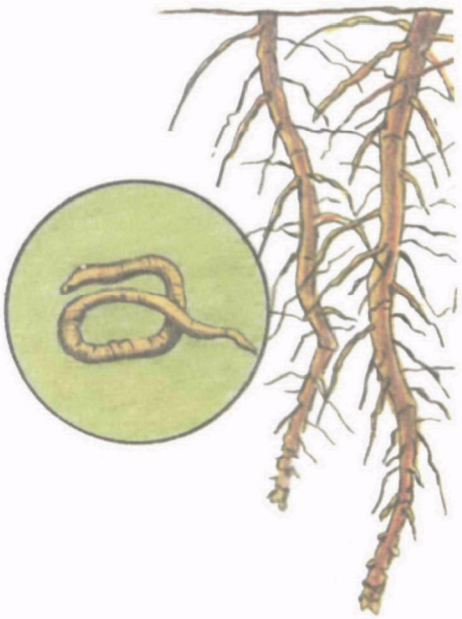
Viruses are so small that they cannot be seen with the unaided eye or even with an ordinary microscope. They are generally recognized by their effects on plants. Many viruses that cause plant disease are carried by insects, usually aphids or

leafhoppers. Viruses are easily carried along in bulbs, roots, cuttings, and seeds. Some viruses are transmitted when machines or men touch healthy plants after touching diseased plants. A few are transmitted in pollen. At least one virus is transmitted by a fungus. A few are transmitted by nematodes. Wheat streak mosaic, tobacco mosaic, and corn dwarf are diseases caused by viruses.

Dwarf Virus

Nematodes are small, usually microscopic, roundworms, also called eelworms. Many nematodes are harmless. Others may attack crops planted for food, fiber, or landscape purposes. Some species attack the above-ground plant parts, such as leaves, stems, and seeds. But most species feed on or in the roots. They may feed in one location, or they may constantly move through the roots. Nematodes usually do not kill plants, but reduce growth and plant health. They may weaken the plant and make it susceptible to other disease agents.

All nematodes that are parasites on plants have a hollow feeding spear. They use it to puncture plant cells and feed on the cell contents. Nematodes may develop and feed either inside or outside of a plant. Their life cycle includes an egg, four larval stages, and an adult. Most larvae look like adults, but are smaller. The females of some, such as root knot and cyst nematodes, become fixed in the plant tissue.



Their bodies become swollen and rounded. The root knot nematode deposits its eggs in a mass outside of its body. The cyst nematode keeps part of its eggs inside its body after death. They may survive there for many years.

Development of Plant Diseases

A parasitic disease depends on the life cycle of the parasite. The environment affects this cycle greatly. Temperature and moisture are especially important. They affect:

- the activity of the parasite,
- the ease with which a plant becomes diseased, and
- the way the disease develops.

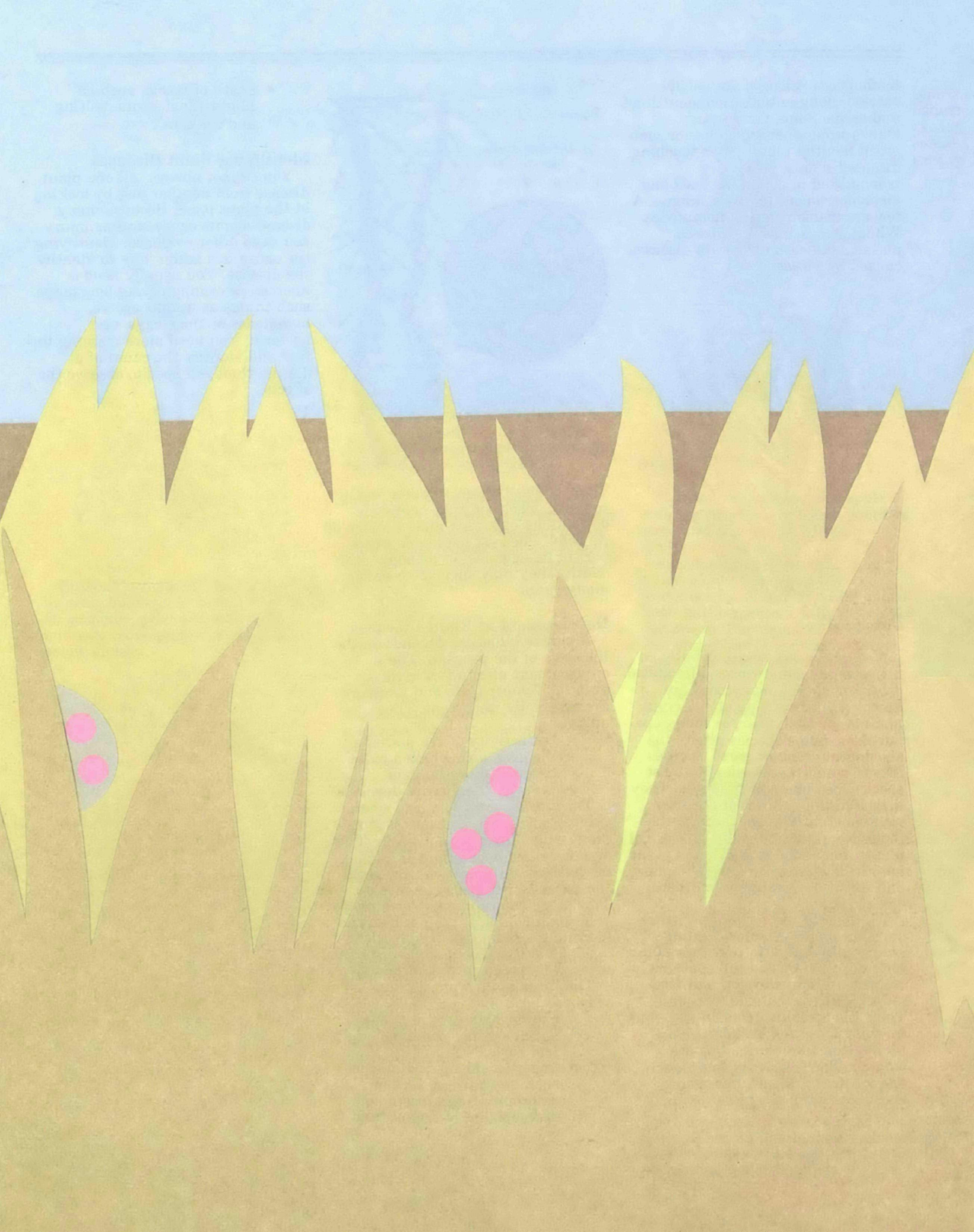
The disease process starts when the parasite arrives at a part of a plant where infection can occur. This step is called *inoculation*. If environmental conditions are good, the parasite will begin to develop. This stage before injury develops is called *incubation*. If the parasite can get into the plant, the stage called *infection* starts. The plant is diseased when it responds to the parasite.

The three main ways a plant responds are:

- overdevelopment of tissue, such as galls, swellings, and leaf curls,
- underdevelopment of tissue, such as stunting, lack of chlorophyll, and incomplete development of organs, and
- death of tissue, such as blights, leaf spots, wilting, and cankers.

Identifying Plant Diseases

You cannot always tell one plant disease from another just by looking at the plant itself. Because many disease agents cause similar injury, you need other evidence. Identifying the cause is a better way to identify the disease. You usually need a microscope or magnifying lens to see such things as fungus spores, nematodes or their eggs, and bacteria. You need more training to find and identify the cause of a disease than you need to observe the effects.



Pest Control

To solve pest problems, you must:

- Identify the pest,
- Know what control methods are available,
- Evaluate the benefits and risks of each method or combination of methods,
- Choose the methods that are most effective and will cause the least harm to you and the environment,
- Know the correct use of the methods, and
- Know local, State, and Federal regulations that apply to the situation.

Principles of Pest Control

We often talk about the "war" against insects, plant diseases, weeds, and rats. In a war between countries, would a national leader use only the Army? Wouldn't he also use other tools, such as the Navy, the Air Force, and propaganda?

Yet, in our struggle against pests, how often do we just use the handiest or cheapest pesticide? How often do we forget to consider other methods or combinations of methods? How often do we forget about effects on the environment? It may be too often.

The use of a combination of methods to control pests is basic to all pest control. Modern pest control is:

- using all available methods to keep pests below economically harmful levels, and
- damaging the environment as little as possible in the process.

The challenge lies in our ability:

- to control pests so that injury caused by them is held to a minimum, and
- to recognize when direct action, such as a pesticide application, is necessary.

Pest Control Methods

Many pest control methods have been known and used for years. But some methods, what we call them, and the way we put them together are new. Here are the most important pest control methods:

Resistant Varieties

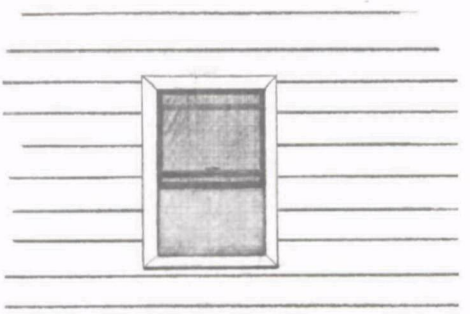
Some crops, animals, and woods resist pests better than others. Some crops and woods are immune to certain pests. By using resistant types, we make the environment less favorable for pests. This makes it easier to keep pests below harmful levels.

Biological Control

Biological control is most common for insects, mites, and some weeds. Biological control occurs naturally. Releasing more of a pest's natural enemies—parasites, predators, and disease agents—into the target area can increase this natural control. Many pests come from other countries. Bringing in their natural enemies often helps control them.

Cultural Control

Planting, growing, harvesting, and tillage practices may help or harm pests. Cultivating is harmful to weeds but may result in the spread of diseases and nematodes. Other practices such as crop rotation, methods of construction, time of planting, and proper fertilization all affect pests.



Mechanical-Physical Control

Some physical methods and examples of their use are:

- traps for rats, mice, and birds,
- barriers to protect against termites, rodents, and flies,
- light to attract or repel pests,
- sound to kill, attract, or repel pests,
- heat to kill pests,
- cold to kill pests,
- radiation to sterilize or kill pests, and
- electrocution to kill pests.

Sanitation

Removing the source of food helps control some types of pests. Cockroach, rat, and fly control is often hard unless you remove the food or filth they feed on.

Legal Control

Legal controls result from Federal, State, or local laws and regulations. They include such things as:

- quarantines,
- inspections,
- embargoes, and
- compulsory crop or product destruction.

Pesticides

Pesticides often must be used. Other methods cannot always prevent harmful pest levels. Use pesticides:

- where they are needed, and
- where they can be used safely.

Select and use them so they work with other methods. Be careful not to harm yourself or the environment. Using pesticides along with other methods is often better than using any one method by itself.

Putting It All Together

The combination of methods you choose will depend on the *kind* and *amount* of control you need. The three main types of controls are:

Prevention

Keeping a pest from becoming a problem. Includes use of such things as:

- sanitation,
- resistant plants, animals, or wood,
- treated seed,
- pesticides,
- cultural controls,
- quarantines, and
- seed certification.

Suppression

Reducing pest numbers or damage to an acceptable level. Includes use of such things as:

- sanitation,
- resistant plants, animals, or wood,
- pesticides, and
- cultural controls.

Eradication

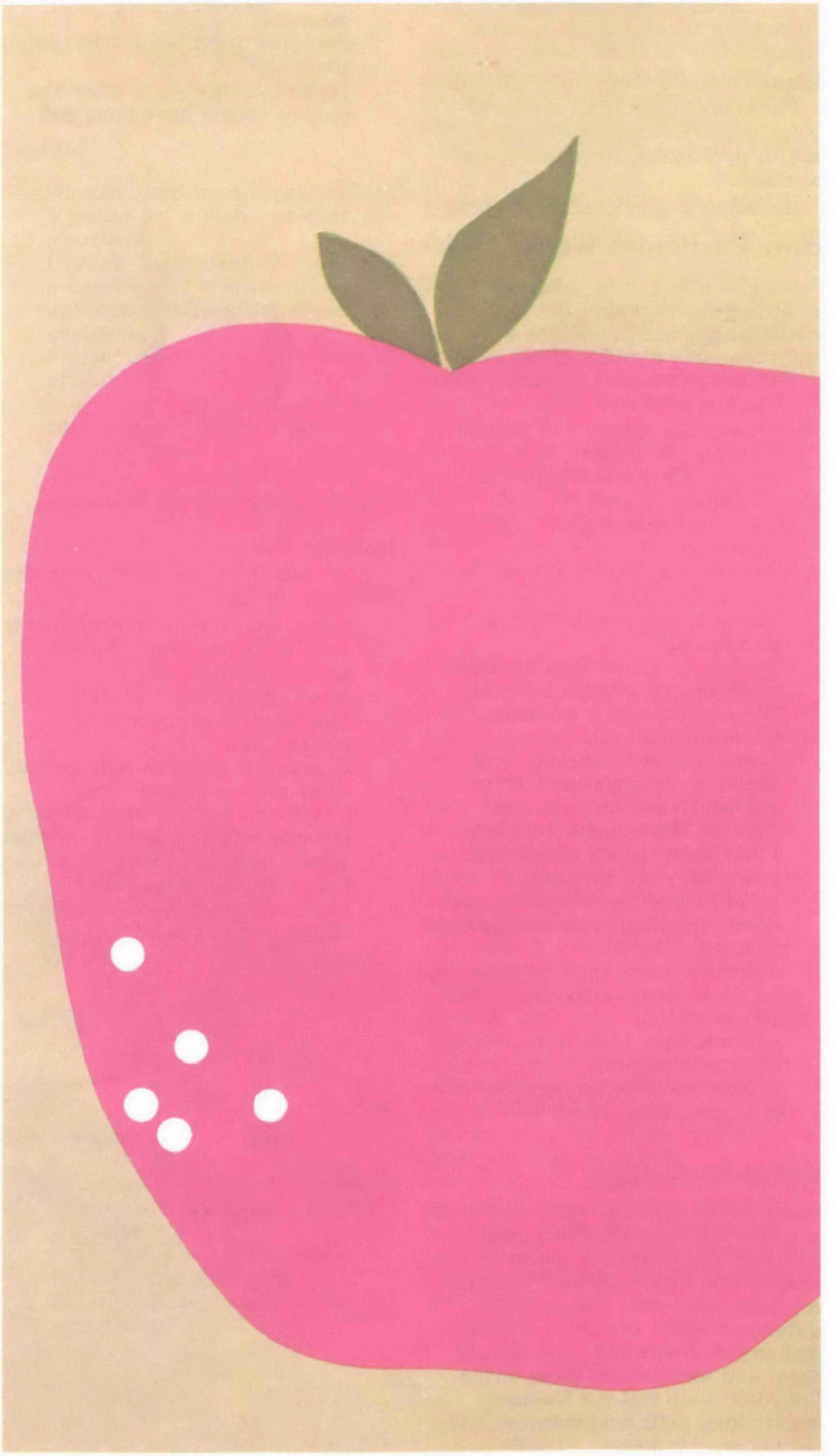
Destroying or removing a pest completely from a crop, an area, or a geographic region.

Remember, the most important principle of pest control is:

- Use a pest control method only when that method will prevent the pest from causing more damage than is reasonable to accept.

Even though a pest is present, it may not do very much harm. It could cost more to control the pest than would have been lost because of the pest's damage.

Pesticides



After considering all available control methods, you may decide that a pesticide is needed. Here are some things you should know in order to choose the right pesticide and use it most effectively.

Pesticides are chemicals used to destroy, prevent, or control pests. They also include:

- chemicals used to attract or repel pests, and
- chemicals used to regulate plant growth or remove or coat leaves.

Here are the types and uses of pesticides:

Insecticide: controls insects and other related pests such as ticks and spiders.
Miticide: controls mites.
Acaricide: controls mites, ticks, and spiders.
Nematicide: controls nematodes.
Fungicide: controls fungi.
Bactericide: controls bacteria.
Herbicide: controls weeds.
Rodenticide: controls rodents.
Avicide: controls birds.
Piscicide: controls fish.
Molluscicide: controls mollusks, such as slugs and snails.
Predacide: controls vertebrate pests.
Repellent: keeps pests away.
Attractant: lures pests.
Plant Growth Regulator: stops, speeds up, or otherwise changes normal plant processes.
Defoliant: removes unwanted plant growth without killing the whole plant immediately.
Desiccant: dries up plant leaves and stems and insects.
Antitranspirant: coats the leaves of plants to reduce unwanted water loss (transpiration).

The Nature of Pesticides

Pesticides can be grouped according to their chemical nature. The groups are:

Inorganic Pesticides

These are made from minerals. Minerals used most often are

arsenic, copper, boron, lead, mercury, sulfur, tin, and zinc. Examples: lead arsenate, Bordeaux mixture, and Paris green.

Synthetic Organic Pesticides

These are man-made pesticides. They contain carbon, hydrogen, and one or more other elements such as chlorine, phosphorous, and nitrogen. Examples: 2,4-D, atrazine, captan, parathion, and malathion.

Living Micro-organisms

These are viruses, bacteria, and fungi, produced by man. Examples: the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis,* and the polyhedrosis virus.

Plant-Derived Organic Pesticides

These are made from plants or plant parts. Examples: rotenone, red squill, pyrethrins, strychnine, and nicotine.

How Pesticides Work

Pesticides also can be grouped according to what they do. Many synthetic organic pesticides work in more than one way. Read the label to find out what each pesticide will do. The major groups are:

Protectants: applied to plants, animals, structures, and products to prevent entry or damage by a pest.
Sterilants: make pests unable to reproduce.
Contacts: kill pests simply by contacting them.
Stomach poisons: kill when swallowed.
Systemics: taken into the blood of an animal or sap of a plant. They kill the pest without harming the host.
Translocated herbicides: kill plants by being absorbed by leaves, stems, or roots and moving throughout the plant.
Fumigants: gases which kill when they are inhaled or otherwise absorbed by the pest.
Anticoagulants: prevent normal clotting of blood.
Selective: more toxic to some kinds of plants or animals than to others.
Nonselective: toxic to most plants or animals.
Pheromones: affect pests by changing their behavior.

Using Pesticides

Many terms describe when and how to use pesticides. They are used in labeling. They also are found in leaflets and bulletins that you may get from your local Cooperative Extension agent or others at your land-grant university. You should know and understand these terms. They will help you get the best results from your pesticides with the least possible harm to you and the environment.

When To Use

Terms that tell you when to use the pesticide product:

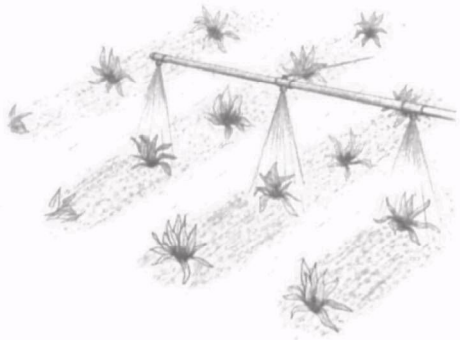
Preemergence: used before crop or weeds emerge. May also refer to use after crops emerge or are established, but before weeds emerge.
Preplant: used before the crop is planted.
Postemergence: used after the crop or weeds have emerged.

Preemergence and Postemergence

How To Use

Terms that tell you how to use the pesticide product:

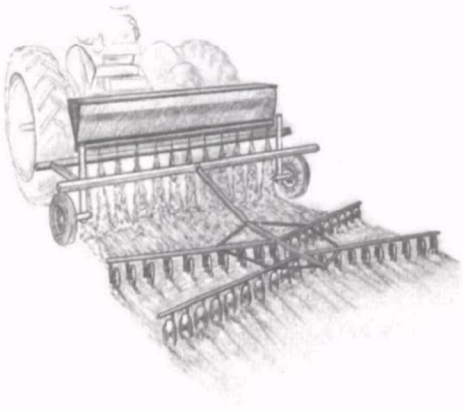
Band: application to a strip over or along a crop row or on or around a structure.
Basal: application to stems or trunks at or just above the ground line.
Broadcast: uniform application to an entire, specific area.
Crack and crevice: application in structures to cracks and crevices where pests may live.
Dip: complete or partial immersion of a plant, animal, or object in a pesticide.



Band

Directed

Directed: aiming the pesticide at a portion of a plant, animal, or structure.
Drench: saturating the soil with a pesticide or oral treatment of an animal with a liquid pesticide.
Foliar: application to the leaves of plants.
In-furrow: application to or in the furrow in which a plant is planted.
Over-the-top: application over the top of the growing crop.
Pour-on: pouring the pesticide along the midline of the back of livestock.
Sidedress: application along the side of a crop row.
Soil application: application to the soil rather than to vegetation.



Soil Incorporation

Soil incorporation: use of tillage implements to mix the pesticide with the soil.
Soil injection: application beneath the soil surface.
Spot treatment: application to small area.

Accuracy Is Important

The *rate* and *time* of application of pesticides are critical. Most pesticides work at very low rates. If you use too much, they can harm or even kill the plant or animal you wish to protect. Pesticides work best when applied at specific times. Applying them before or after the correct time reduces or even eliminates their effectiveness.

Since all these chemicals work in small amounts, be careful to treat only the intended target. Avoid getting them on anything else as a result of drift or of residue in application equipment or soil.

Factors Affecting Pesticide Activity

Soil Factors

Organic matter in soils limits pesticide activity. Soils with high organic matter content may need higher rates of pesticides for good pest control. Follow label instructions.

Soil texture also affects the way pesticides work. Soils with fine particles (silts and clays) provide the most surface area. They may need higher rates. Coarser soils (sands) have less surface area. Use lower rates on them. Follow label instructions.

Climatic Factors

Soil moisture and rain affect the way pesticides work. They also affect how long pesticides stay on soil and plants. Pesticides work best with moderate soil moisture. Wetness may keep the pesticide from contacting the soil particles. Rain causes soluble pesticides to leach down through the soil. Rain is good when preemergence pesticides are applied to the surface. It carries them down into the soil to the pests. But rain during or soon after over-the-top or foliar applications is not good. It may wash pesticides off the leaves.

Humidity and temperature also affect the way pesticides work. Herbicides work best when plants are growing fast. High relative humidity and optimum temperatures usually cause this fast growth. High temperatures cause some soil pesticides to evaporate quickly. Low temperatures may slow down or stop the activity of some pesticides.

Light may break down some pesticides if they are left on the soil surface for a long time.

Pesticide Resistance

The ability of pests to resist poisoning is called *pesticide resistance*. Consider this when planning pest control programs that rely on the use of pesticides.

Rarely does any pesticide kill all the target pests. Each time a pesticide is used, it selectively kills the most sensitive pests. Some pests avoid the pesticide. Others are able to withstand its effects. Pests that are not destroyed pass along to their offspring the trait that allowed them to survive.

When we use one pesticide repeatedly in the same place, the pest population sometimes builds up its resistance. Some pests have become practically immune to poisoning by certain pesticides.

Not every pesticide failure is caused by pest resistance, however. Make sure that you have:

- used the correct pesticide,
- used the correct dosage, and
- applied the pesticide correctly.

Your Cooperative Extension Service can help you find out why you did not get the desired results.

Plant Growth Regulators, Desiccants, Defoliants, and Antitranspirants

Plant growth regulators, desiccants, defoliants, and antitranspirants change normal plant processes.

How They Work

Plant Growth Regulators

All plant parts are made up of tiny cells which continually multiply and

grow. Plant growth regulators speed up, slow down, or otherwise affect cell growth and reproduction. Here are some ways they are used:

- decrease preharvest drop,
- increase fruit firmness,
- reduce scald,
- delay water core (water-soaked area around core of fruit),
- increase red color,
- thin fruit,
- increase flowering,
- reduce fruit cracking,
- promote uniform bearing of fruit,
- control plant height,
- prevent or delay sprouting of tubers,
- promote dense growth of landscape plants,
- promote earlier flowering,
- prevent seed formation,
- induce branching,
- reduce suckering,
- hasten fruit maturity,
- increase seed yield, and
- control excessive growth.

Defoliated Cotton

Desiccants and Defoliants

These often are called harvest-aid chemicals, because they help the farmer harvest his crop. Both are used to get rid of leaves, stems, and weeds in such crops as cotton, soybeans, and potatoes.

Antitranspirants

By reducing water loss, they can:

- prevent winter damage,
- maintain color in evergreens,
- protect against salt damage,
- help protect transplants, and
- prevent needle drop on Christmas trees.

Types of Formulations

Active ingredients are the chemicals in a pesticide product that do the work. Active ingredients can rarely be used in the form in which they were made. They usually must be changed or mixed with something else. Other ingredients may be added to make them convenient to handle and safe, easy, and accurate to apply. These are the inert ingredients. This mixture of active and inert ingredients is called a *pesticide formulation*. Some formulations are ready for use. Others must be diluted with water or a petroleum solvent. The directions for use will tell you how to use a pesticide formulation.

Here are the most common types of liquid and dry formulations. The abbreviations are included because Cooperative Extension Service recommendations and the labels and labeling may refer to the formulations in this way.

Liquid Formulations

Emulsifiable Concentrates (EC or E)

An emulsifiable concentrate can be mixed with water to form an emulsion. Each gallon of an EC usually contains 2 to 8 pounds of active ingredient. Diluted EC's usually need little agitation in the spray tank.

EC's can damage some crops. These crops may require a different formulation of the active ingredient such as a wettable powder or a dust.

Solutions (S)

High Concentrates—These are special formulations. They usually contain 8 or more pounds of active ingredient per gallon. They may contain only the active ingredient itself. Most are designed to be used as is or diluted with oil or petroleum solvents. They contain chemicals that allow them to spread and stick well. Ultra low volume (ULV) concentrate materials should be used without further dilution.

Low Concentrates—These formulations usually contain less than 2 pounds of active ingredient per gallon. Most of them are solutions in highly refined oils. They need no further dilution. The label will give you directions for use. They are often used for:

- controlling household and industrial pests,
- mothproofing.
- livestock sprays, or
- space sprays in barns.

Flowables (F or L)

Some active ingredients can be made only as a solid, or at best, a semisolid. These are finely ground and put into a liquid along with other substances that make the mixture form a suspension. They are *flowable solids*. Flowables can be mixed with water. They seldom clog spray nozzles. They need only moderate agitation. Most of them handle as well as EC formulations.

Aerosols(A)

These pesticide formulations are liquids that contain the active ingredient in solution in a solvent. More than one pesticide may be in these formulations. Most aerosol formulations have a low percentage of active ingredient. They are made for use only in fog- or mist-generating machines. They are used in structures, greenhouses, and barns for insect control.

Liquified Gases

Some fumigants are gases which become liquid when placed under pressure. This type of formulation is stored under pressure. The pressure may be either high or low, depending on the product. Some nematicides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides are formulated this way. These formulations are applied by:

- injecting them directly into the soil,
- releasing them under tarps, or
- releasing them into a structure such as a grain storage elevator.

Some other active ingredients remain liquid in an ordinary container, but turn into a gas or vapor as or after they are applied. These formulations do not require storage under pressure. They must be put into the soil or confined in a space before they turn to gas. Otherwise, they could be lost into the air.

Dry Formulations

Dusts (D)

Most dust formulations are ready to use and contain:

- an active ingredient, plus
- a very fine or powdered dry inert substance such as talc, clay, nut hulls, or volcanic ash.

The amount of active ingredient usually ranges from 1 to 10 percent.

All the ingredients are ground into fine, uniform particles. Inert ingredients are often added so the formulation will store and handle well. Some active ingredients are prepared as dusts because they are safer for crops in that form. Dusts always must be used dry. They can easily drift into non-target areas. You can get dusts for use on seeds, plants, and animals.

Dust concentrates are available for further dilution with dry inert ingredients before they are ready to use.

Granules (G)

Granular formulations are dry. Most are made by applying a liquid formulation of the active ingredient to coarse particles (granules) of some porous material. Often used are clay, corn cobs, or walnut shells. Granule particles are much larger than dust particles. The pesticide is absorbed into the granule, or coats the outside of it, or both. Inert ingredients may be added to make the formulation handle well. The amount of active ingredient ranges from 2 to 40 percent. Granular formulations are safer to apply than EC's or dusts. They are most often used as soil treatments. They may be applied either directly to the soil or over plants. They do not cling to plant foliage, but they may be trapped in the whorls of some plants. Granular formulations, like dusts, should always be used dry. Never mix them with water.

Wettable Powders (WP or W)

These are dry, finely ground pesticide formulations. They look like dusts. But, unlike dusts, they are made to mix with water. Most wettable powders are much more concentrated than dusts. They contain 15 to 95 percent active ingredient—usually 50 percent or more. Wettable powders form a suspension rather than a true solution when added to water. Good agitation is needed in the spray tank to maintain the suspension. Good wettable powders spray well and do not clog nozzles. They are abrasive to pumps and nozzles. Most wettable powders are safer for use on plants than EC's are.

Soluble Powders (SP)

Soluble powders also are dry formulations. But when they are added to water, they form true solutions. Agitation in the spray tank may be needed to get them to dissolve. After that, no more agitation usually is needed. The amount of active ingredient in an SP is usually above 50 percent.

Baits (B)

A bait formulation is an edible or attractive substance mixed with a pesticide. The bait attracts pests and the pesticide kills them when they eat the formulation. Baits usually are used to control rodents and insect pests. They can be used in buildings or outdoors. The amount of active ingredient in most bait formulations is quite low, usually less than 5 percent.

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

HAZARDS TO HUMANS
(& DOMESTIC ANIMALS)

DANGER

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

PHYSICAL OR CHEMICAL HAZARDS

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

RE-ENTRY STATEMENT
(If Applicable)

CATEGORY OF APPLICATOR

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

STORAGE

DISPOSAL

CROP:

RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE

FOR RETAIL SALE TO AND APPLICATION ONLY BY CERTIFIED APPLICATORS OR PERSONS UNDER THEIR DIRECT SUPERVISION

PRODUCT NAME

ACTIVE INGREDIENT: _____ %

INERT INGREDIENTS: _____ %

TOTAL: 100.00 %

THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS LBS OF PER GALLON

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

DANGER — POISON

STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT

IF SWALLOWED

IF INHALED

IF ON SKIN

IF IN EYES

SEE SIDE PANEL FOR ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

MFG BY

TOWN, STATE

ESTABLISHMENT NO.

EPA REGISTRATION NO.

NET CONTENTS

CROP:

CROP:

CROP:

CROP:

CROP:

WARRANTY STATEMENT

Labels and Labeling

Each time you buy a pesticide, you also receive instructions to tell you how to use it. Those instructions are the labeling.

What is labeling? What is a label? These words seem alike but they do not mean the same thing.

Labeling is all information that you receive from the company or its agent about the product. Labeling includes such things as:

- the label on the product,
- brochures,
- flyers, and
- information handed out by your dealer.

The *label* is the information printed on or attached to the container of pesticides. This label does many things:

- To the manufacturer, the label is a "license to sell."
- To the State or Federal Government, the label is a way to control the distribution, storage, sale, use, and disposal of the products.
- To the buyer or user, the label is a main source of facts on how to use the product correctly and legally.
- The label is a way to tell users about special safety measures needed.

Some labels are easy to understand. Others are complicated. But all labels will tell you how to use the product correctly. This section will explain the items that must be on a label.

Parts of the Label

Brand Name

Each company has brand names for its products. The brand name is the one used in ads. The brand name shows up plainly on the front panel of the label. It is the most identifiable name for the product.

Type of Formulation

Different types of pesticide formulations (such as liquids, wettable powders, and dusts) require different methods of handling. The label will tell you what type of formulation the package contains. The same pesticide may be available in more than one formulation.

Common Name

Many pesticides have complex chemical names. Some have been given another name to make them easier to identify. These are called *common names.* For instance, carbaryl is the common name for 1-naphthyl N-methylcarbamate. A chemical made by more than one company will be sold under several *brand names,* but you may find the same *common name* or chemical name on all of them.

Ingredient Statement

Every pesticide label must list what is in the product. The list is written so that you can see quickly what the active ingredients are. The amount of each *active ingredient* is given as a percentage by weight or as pounds per gallon of concentrate. It can be listed by either the chemical name or the common name. The *inert ingredients* need not be named, but the label must show what percent of the contents they make up.

Net Contents

The net contents number tells you how much is in the container. This can be expressed in gallons, pints, pounds, quarts, or other units of measure.

Name and Address of Manufacturer

The law requires the maker or distributor of a product to put the name and address of the company on the label. This is so you will know who made or sold the product.

Registration and Establishment Numbers

A registration number must be on every pesticide label. It shows that the product has been registered with the Federal Government. It usually is found on the front panel of the label and will be written as "EPA Registration No. 0000." The establishment number tells what factory made the chemical. This number does not have to be on the label, but will be somewhere on each container.

Signal Words and Symbols

To do their job, most pesticides must control the target pest. By their nature, they are toxic. Therefore, some may be hazardous to people. You can tell the toxicity of a product by reading the *signal word* and looking at the *symbol* on the label.

Signal Words

One of the most important parts of the label is the *signal word.* It tells you approximately how toxic the material is to people. The signal words that follow are set by law. Each manufacturer must use the correct one on every label:

Signal Words	Toxicity	Appromixate Amount Needed To Kill the Average Person
DANGER	Highly toxic	a taste to a teaspoonful
WARNING	Moderately toxic	a teaspoonful to a table-spoonful
CAUTION	Low toxicity or Compara-tively free from danger	an ounce to more than a pint

All products must bear the statement "Keep out of reach of children."

Symbol

One of the best ways to catch a person's eye is with symbols. This is why a skull and crossbones symbol is used on all highly toxic materials along with the signal word DANGER and the word POISON.

Pay attention to the symbol on the label. It is there to remind you that the contents could make you sick, or even kill you.

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

HAZARDS TO HUMANS
(& DOMESTIC ANIMALS)

DANGER

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

PHYSICAL OR CHEMICAL HAZARDS

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

RE-ENTRY STATEMENT
(If Applicable)

CATEGORY OF APPLICATOR

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

STORAGE

DISPOSAL

CROP:

RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE

FOR RETAIL SALE TO AND APPLICATION ONLY BY CERTIFIED APPLICATORS OR PERSONS UNDER THEIR DIRECT SUPERVISION

PRODUCT NAME

ACTIVE INGREDIENT: _____ %
INERT INGREDIENTS: _____ %

TOTAL: 100.00 %

THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS LBS OF PER GALLON

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

DANGER — POISON

STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT

IF SWALLOWED
IF INHALED
IF ON SKIN
IF IN EYES

SEE SIDE PANEL FOR ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

MFG BY
TOWN, STATE
ESTABLISHMENT NO.
EPA REGISTRATION NO.

NET CONTENTS

CROP:

CROP:

CROP:

CROP:

CROP:

WARRANTY STATEMENT

Precautionary Statement

Hazards to Humans (and Domestic Animals)

This section will tell you the ways in which the product may be poisonous to man and animals. It also will tell you of any special steps you should take to avoid poisoning, such as the kind of protective equipment needed.

If the product is highly toxic, this section will inform physicians of the proper treatment for poisoning.

Environmental Hazards

Pesticides are useful tools. But wrong or careless use could cause undesirable effects. To help avoid this, the label contains environmental precautions that you should read and follow.

Here are some examples:

- "This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or to residues on crops."
- "Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment or when disposing of wastes."
- "Do not apply where runoff is likely to occur."

Labels may contain broader warnings against harming birds, fish, and wildlife.

Physical and Chemical Hazards

This section will tell you of any special fire, explosion, or chemical hazards that the product may pose.

Statement of Practical Treatment

If swallowing or inhaling the product or getting it in your eyes or on your skin would be harmful, the label will tell you emergency first aid measures. It also will tell you what types of exposure require medical attention.

The pesticide label is the most important information you can take to the physician when you think someone has been poisoned.

Statement of Use Classification

Every pesticide label must show whether the contents are for general use or restricted use. EPA puts every product use into one of these two classes. The classification is based on:

- the hazard of poisoning,
- the way the pesticide is used, and
- its effect on the environment.

General Use

If a pesticide will harm the applicator or the environment very little or not at all when used exactly as directed, it will be labeled a general use pesticide.

The label on these products will say:

"General classification."

Restricted Use

A restricted use pesticide is one which could cause some human injury or environmental damage even when used as directed on the label. The label on these products will say:

"Restricted use pesticide for retail sale to and application only by certified applicators or persons under their direct supervision."

The restricted use statement must be at the top of the front panel of the label.

Directions for Use

The instructions on how to use the pesticides are an important part of the label for you. This is the best way you can find out the right way to apply the product.

The use instructions will tell you:

- the pests the product is registered to control (Labels use common names for pests. Knowing these names will help you choose the proper pesticide and find control information),
- the crop, animal, or other item the product can be used on,
- whether the product is for general or restricted use,
- in what form the product should be applied,
- how much to use,
- where the material should be applied, and
- when it should be applied.

Misuse Statement

This section will remind you that it is a violation of Federal law to use a product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. Do not use a product on a crop or for a pest not listed on the label. Do not use it at more than the recommended rate. Before the product could be registered, EPA required the manufacturer to conduct many tests to be sure the label directions were correct. By following them exactly, you will:

- get the best results the product can give, and
- avoid breaking the law.

Reentry Statement

If required for the product, this section will tell you how much time must pass before a pesticide-treated area is safe for entry by a person without protective clothing. Consult local authorities for special rules that may apply.

Category of Applicator

If required for the product, this section will limit use to certain categories of commercial applicators.

Storage and Disposal Directions

Every pesticide should be stored and disposed of correctly. This section will tell you how to store and dispose of the product and empty containers.

Using Pesticides Safely

There are two good reasons for using pesticides safely:

- to keep yourself and other people from being poisoned, and
- to avoid harming the environment.

Protecting Man

How Pesticides Harm Man

Pesticides can cause injury. They are *toxic*. Manufacturers find out how toxic a pesticide is by testing it on animals. The product's *hazard*—the danger that injury will occur to man—depends on the toxicity of the active ingredient plus the exposure to the product during use.

Most pesticides can cause severe illness, or even death, if misused. But every registered pesticide can be used safely if you use proper care.

Children under 10 are the victims of at least half of the accidental pesticide deaths in this country. If pesticides were always cared for correctly, children would never touch them.

Many accidental pesticide deaths are caused by eating or drinking the product. But some mixers, loaders, and applicators die or are injured when they breathe a pesticide vapor or get a pesticide on their skin. Repeated exposure to small amounts of some pesticides can cause sudden severe illness.

Most pesticides can enter the body through the skin. You may get more into your body this way than you would accidentally swallow or inhale while working. With some pesticides, skin contact alone can cause death.

You should help prevent *all* accidents with pesticides:

- by using and storing pesticides away from children and other untrained persons, and
- by taking care to follow directions when using them.

Products for restricted use need special care. The label is your guide.

Symptoms of Pesticide Poisoning

You should know what kinds of sickness are caused by the pesticides you use. You also should know the conditions under which each one may make you sick.

There are two kinds of clues to pesticide poisoning. Some are feelings that only the person who has been poisoned can notice—such as nausea or headache. These are *symptoms*. Others, like vomiting, also can be noticed by someone else. These are *signs*. So you should know:

- what your own feelings might mean, and
- what signs of poisoning to look for in your co-workers and others who may have been exposed.

All pesticides in the same chemical group cause the same kind of sickness. This sickness may be mild or severe, depending on the pesticide and the amount absorbed. But the *pattern* of illness caused by one type of pesticide is always the same. Having some of the signs and symptoms does not always mean you have been poisoned. Other kinds of sickness may cause similar signs and symptoms. Headache and a feeling of being unwell, for example, may signal the start of many kinds of illness. It is the *pattern of symptoms* that makes it possible to tell one kind of sickness from another.

Get medical advice quickly if you or any of your fellow workers have unusual or unexplained symptoms starting at work or later the same day. If you suspect a person has been poisoned, do not leave him alone. Do not let yourself or anyone else get dangerously sick before calling your physician or going to a hospital. It is better to be too cautious than too late. Take the container (or the label) of the pesticide to the physician. Do not carry the pesticide container in the passenger space of a car or truck.

Synthetic Organic Pesticides

Organophosphates—These pesticides injure the nervous system. The signs and symptoms go through stages. They normally occur in this order:

Mild Poisoning
- fatigue
- headache
- dizziness
- blurred vision
- too much sweating and salivation
- nausea and vomiting
- stomach cramps or diarrhea

Moderate Poisoning
- unable to walk
- weakness
- chest discomfort
- muscle twitches
- constriction of pupil of the eye
- earlier symptoms become more severe.

Severe Poisoning
- unconsciousness
- severe constriction of pupil of eye
- muscle twitches
- secretions from mouth and nose
- breathing difficulty
- death if not treated.

Illness may be delayed a few hours. But if signs or symptoms start more than 12 hours after you were exposed to the pesticide, you probably have some other illness. Check with your physician to be sure.

Carbamates—The only carbamates likely to make you ill on the job act almost like organophosphates. They produce the same signs and symptoms if you are poisoned by them. But the injury they cause can be corrected more easily by a physician. For this reason, most carbamates are safer than organophosphates. The label will warn you of the danger.

Organochlorines—Not many organochlorines (chlorinated hydrocarbons) have poisoned applicators.

Early signs and symptoms of poisoning include:

- headache,
- nausea,
- vomiting,
- general discomfort, and
- dizziness.

With more severe poisoning, convulsions follow. They may even appear without the warning symptoms. Coma may follow the convulsions. The person also may be unusually excited or irritable.

Nitrophenols and Pentachlorophenol—The signs and symptoms of skin exposure include:

- redness,
- burning, and
- blisters.

The signs and symptoms of poisoning include:

- headache,
- nausea,
- gastric distress,
- restlessness,
- hot feeling,
- flushed skin,
- sweating,
- deep and fast breathing,
- fast beating of the heart,
- fever,
- ashen color,
- collapse, and
- coma.

Severe poisoning usually runs a rapid course. One usually dies or is almost well within 24 to 48 hours.

Fumigants and Solvents—Too much exposure to these compounds may make a person seem drunk. The signs and symptoms are:

- poor coordination,
- slurring words,
- confusion, and
- sleepiness.

Repeated exposure to the fumigant methyl bromide has caused permanent internal injury without early signs or symptoms of poisoning. You can absorb a fatal dose of it before symptoms appear.

Inorganic Pesticides

Large single doses of most inorganic pesticides cause vomiting and stomach pain. The signs and symptoms depend on the mineral from which the pesticide is made.

Plant-derived Pesticides

Some plant-derived pesticides are very toxic. Technical pyrethrum may cause allergic reactions. Some rotenone dusts irritate the respiratory tract. Nicotine is a fast-acting nerve poison about as dangerous as parathion. Some other plant-derived pesticides are strychnine, rotenone, and red squill.

First Aid Procedures

Read the directions in the "Statement of Practical Treatment" on each label. These instructions can save your life and the lives of your employees.

If you get a pesticide on your skin:

- Remove the pesticide as quickly as possible. Remove all contaminated clothing. Prompt washing may prevent sickness even when the spill is very large. Don't forget your hair and fingernails. Water-wettable powders or suspensions are easy to remove with plain water. So are most emulsifiable concentrates and emulsions. Solutions of pesticides in petroleum oil or other solvents are harder to remove without soap or a detergent. Detergents work better. Washrooms and emergency field washing facilities should have detergents rather than plain soap.

If you inhale a pesticide:

- Get to fresh air right away.

If you splash a pesticide into your mouth or swallow it:

- Rinse your mouth with plenty of water.
- Go or be taken to a physician immediately.
- It is sometimes dangerous to cause vomiting; follow label directions.

Protecting Your Body

Pesticides can enter the body in many ways. The main ones are:

- getting the pesticide on your skin,
- inhaling it, and
- swallowing it.

To prevent this, you must wear protective clothing and equipment. No safety recommendations can cover all situations. Your common sense should tell you to use more protection as the hazard increases. The pesticide label will tell you the kind of protection you need.

Remember to bathe, using a detergent, when you finish working with pesticides or pesticide-contaminated equipment. Any time you spill a pesticide on yourself, wash immediately.

Protective Clothing

Body Covering—Any time you handle pesticides, you should wear at least:

- a long-sleeved shirt and long-legged trousers, or
- a coverall type garment.

They should be made of closely woven fabric. When handling pesticide concentrates or very toxic materials, you also should wear a liquid-proof raincoat or apron. Wear trousers *outside* of the boots to keep pesticides from getting inside.

Gloves—When you handle concentrated or highly toxic pesticides, wear liquid-proof neoprene gloves. However, some fumigants are readily absorbed by neoprene. The label will tell you what kind of gloves to use. They should be long enough to protect the wrist. Gloves should not be lined with a fabric. The lining is hard to clean if a chemical gets on it. Sleeves should be *outside* of the gloves to keep pesticides from running down the sleeves and into the gloves.

Hat—Wear something to protect your head. A wide-brimmed, waterproof hat will protect your neck, eyes, mouth, and face. It should not have a cloth or leather sweatband. These sweatbands are hard to clean if chemicals get on them. Plastic "hard hats" with

plastic sweatbands are good. They are waterproof and are cool in hot weather.

Boots—Wear unlined neoprene boots. However, some fumigants are readily absorbed by neoprene boots. Follow label instructions.

Goggles or Face Shield—Wear goggles or a face shield when there is any chance of getting pesticides in your eyes. Your eyes will absorb many pesticides. You can wear goggles alone or with a respirator.

Care of Clothing—Wear clean clothing daily. If clothes get wet with spray, change them right away. If they get wet with pesticide concentrates or highly toxic pesticides, destroy them. They are hard to get clean by normal methods. Do not store or wash contaminated clothing with the family laundry. Wash hats, gloves, and boots daily, inside and out. Hang them to dry. Test gloves for leaks by filling them with water and gently squeezing.

Wash goggles or face shields at least once a day. Elastic fabric headbands often absorb pesticides and are difficult to clean. Have some spares so you can replace them often, or use neoprene headbands.

Respiratory Protective Devices

The respiratory tract—the lungs and other parts of the breathing system—is much more absorbent than the skin. You *must* wear an approved respiratory device when the label directs you to do so. Follow the label instructions on respiratory protection.

You probably will need a respirator:

- if you will be exposed to a pesticide for a long time,
- if the pesticide you are using is highly toxic, or
- if you are working in an enclosed area.

Cartridge Respirator

Chemical Cartridge Respirator—You should wear this kind of respirator:

- when you are exposed to intermittent concentrations of a toxic pesticide.

The inhaled air comes through both a filter pad and a cartridge made to absorb pesticide vapors. Most harmful vapors, gases, and particles are removed. These half-face masks cover the mouth and nose. To cover the eyes also, use one that is combined with goggles or wear separate goggles.

Canister Respirator

Chemical Canister Respirator (Gas Mask)—You should wear this kind of respirator:

- when you are exposed to a continuous concentration of a toxic pesticide.

The canister has longer-lasting absorbing material and filters than a cartridge respirator. Gas masks usually protect the face better than cartridge types. Neither kind will protect you during fumigation or when the oxygen supply is low, as in a silo.

Supplied Air Respirator

Supplied Air Respirator—You may use this kind of respirator when mixing or applying pesticides:

- when the oxygen supply is low,
- when you are exposed to high concentrations of highly toxic pesticides in enclosed areas, as in fumigation, or
- when your work can be done close to a supply of clean air.

Clean air is pumped through a hose to the face mask.

Self-contained Breathing Apparatus

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus—You should wear this kind of respirator under the same conditions as the supplied air respirator. It does about the same thing. The difference is that you carry cylinders of air or oxygen with you, usually on your back. This lets you move more freely and over a wider area then you can with a supplied air respirator.

Selection and Maintenance—Specific types of cartridges and canisters protect against specific chemical gases and vapors. Be sure you choose one made for the pesticides you are using. Use only those approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), or the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA).

The respirator must fit the face well. Long sideburns, a beard, or glasses may prevent a good seal. Read the manufacturer's instructions on the use and care of any respirator and its parts before you use it.

When applying pesticides, change filters, cartridges, and canisters if you have trouble breathing, or if you smell pesticides. Remove and discard filters, cartridges, and canisters after use. Then wash the face piece with detergent and water, rinse it, and dry it with a clean cloth. Store it in a clean, dry place away from pesticides.

The useful life of a cartridge or canister depends on:

- the amount of absorbent material,
- the concentration of contaminants in the air,
- the breathing rate of the wearer, and
- the temperature and humidity.

If you have trouble breathing while wearing a respiratory device, see your physician to find out whether you have a respiratory problem.

Protecting the Environment

The "environment" is our surroundings and its many forms of life. Every plant or animal is affected by other plants or animals in the environment. Factors like rain, temperature, and wind are part of the environment. We cannot do much about them. But we can control some other things, including the use of pesticides.

Many people consider pesticides a tool for preserving or improving the environment. Others feel that they cause pollution. As a weed is a "plant out of place," a pesticide sometimes can be a "tool out of place". Correct use prevents pollution by pesticides.

How Pesticides Harm the Environment

Using pesticides in a way other than as directed on the label can:

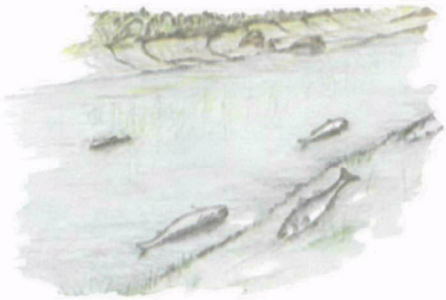
- injure plants and animals,
- leave illegal residues, and
- damage the environment in many other ways.

Any pesticide can cause harm if not chosen and used with care. Here are some ways damage can occur.

Direct Kill of Non-Target Organisms

Do not let a pesticide contact anything except the target area. Drift from herbicides can kill nearby crops and landscape plants. You may kill bees and other pollinators if you treat a crop while they are working in a field. Or you could kill parasites and predators that help control harmful insects.

Pesticides are sometimes applied over a large area. Targets are such things as mosquitoes, forest insects, and weeds. Many non-target plants and animals within the treated area may be harmed. Plan area projects with great care so you will not do irreparable damage to the environment.



Runoff from a sprayed field can kill fish in a nearby stream or pond. Life in streams can be wiped out by careless tank filling or draining and improper container disposal.

All of these kills can result in lawsuits, fines, and loss of certification.

If more than one pesticide will control your target pest, choose the one that is the least hazardous to the environment and most useful for your situation. Ask your Cooperative Extension agent to help you make this choice.

Persistence and Accumulation

Not all pesticides act the same after you apply them. Most are in one of these two groups:

Pesticides that break down quickly remain on the target or in the environment only a short time before being changed into harmless products. Some are highly toxic. Others are fairly harmless.

Pesticides that break down slowly may stay in the environment without change for a long time. Often this is good, because you get long term control. These are called *persistent pesticides*. Most of them:

- are not broken down easily by microorganisms, and
- are only slightly soluble in water.

Some persistent pesticides can injure sensitive crops planted on the same soil the next year. But they seem to be of little hazard to the environment beyond the treated soil. Other persistent pesticides can build up in the bodies of animals, including man. They may build up until they are harmful to the animal itself or to the meat eater that feeds on it. These are called *accumulative pesticides*.

Pesticide Movement in the Environment

Pesticides become problems when they move off target. This may mean:

- drifting out of the target area as mist or dust,
- moving on soil through runoff or erosion,
- leaching through the soil,
- being carried out as residues in crops and livestock, or
- evaporating and moving with air currents.

Soil and Pesticides

Persistent pesticides may limit future planting. You can plant only crops which the pesticide will not kill or contaminate.

Even pesticides directed at plants or animals can move to the soil. They may be washed or brushed off. They may be worked into the soil with dead plant parts.

Air and Pesticides

Pesticides in the air cannot be controlled. The pesticides can settle into water, crops, trees, houses, or barnyards. The wind can carry them hundreds of miles. Even gentle breezes can carry them away from the target.

Water and Pesticides

Water is necessary for all life. But it is not safe to drink or bathe in polluted water.

Most fish and other aquatic life can survive only slight changes in their environment. Even tiny amounts of many pesticides can harm them or destroy the food they live on. They may die at once, or there may be chronic effects. The behavior of an animal can be changed so that predators can more easily catch and kill it. Pesticide-contaminated eggs may not hatch.

Pesticides in water also may harm other wildlife. Polluted irrigation water can harm crops, soil, and livestock. It can cause illegal residues in crops, milk, and meat.

Pesticides contaminate water in many ways. They are applied directly to water when controlling some pests. Your State may require a permit for this. It can be done safely if you:

- choose the pesticides carefully,
- make sure they are registered for the use intended, and
- apply them when and as directed.

But water can be polluted if you use the wrong pesticide or apply it carelessly.

Pesticides also can reach water directly as a result of:

- drift,
- spills,
- application to waterways (ditches and streams), and
- incorrect disposal methods.

Pesticides also may reach water indirectly. This happens because of erosion, runoff, and leaching. In fact, most pesticide movement through air or soil ends up in water.

Benefits of Careful Use

Pesticides help the environment when they are used correctly. Most importantly, they can help produce better quality and higher yields of food, fiber, and timber by reducing damage from pests.

Weigh carefully the advantages and disadvantages of each pesticide use. Choose the pesticide that will do the least damage while giving good control. Finally, plan each part of the job carefully from beginning to end.

Be a responsible pesticide applicator.

Safe Use Precautions

Most parts of your job may involve some risk of pesticide injury:

- hauling pesticides,
- storage,
- mixing,
- calibrating equipment before use,
- loading,
- applying,
- repairing equipment,
- working in pesticide-treated crops and buildings,
- cleaning application equipment after use,
- disposing of surplus pesticides and empty containers,
- cleaning up spills, and
- cleaning protective clothing and equipment.

Some of these things are done indoors. Many are done outdoors. Each one requires some safety measures to prevent harm to people, animals, and plants as well as to soil and water outside the target area.

You can prevent harm from pesticides if you follow safety precautions and use common sense. Here are the *minimum* safety steps you should take.

Before You Buy a Pesticide

The first and most important step in choosing a pesticide is to know what pest you need to control. Then find out which pesticides will control it. You may have a choice of several. You may need help to guide you. Common sources of information are your Cooperative Extension Service, most agricultural schools, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and pesticide manufacturers and dealers.

At the Time of Purchase

Read the label of the pesticide you intend to buy to find out:

- restrictions on use,
- if this is the correct chemical for your problem,
- if the product can be used safely under your conditions,
- environmental precautions needed,
- if the formulation and amount of active ingredient are right for your job,
- if you have the right equipment to apply the pesticide,
- if you have the right protective clothing and equipment, and
- how much pesticide you need.

Before You Apply the Pesticide

Read the label again to find out:

- the protective equipment needed to handle the pesticide,
- the specific warnings and first aid measures,
- what it can be mixed with,
- how to mix it,
- how much to use,
- safety measures,
- when to apply to control the pest and to meet residue tolerances,
- how to apply,
- the rate of application, and
- special instructions.

Transportation of Pesticides

You are responsible for the safe transport of your pesticide.

- The safest way to carry pesticides is in the back of a truck. Fasten down all containers to prevent breakage and spillage.
- Keep pesticides away from food, feed, and passengers.
- Pesticides should be in a correctly labeled package.
- Keep paper and cardboard packages dry.

- If any pesticide is spilled in or from the vehicle, clean it up right away. Use correct cleanup procedures.
- Do not leave unlocked pesticides unattended. You are responsible if accidents occur.

Pesticide Storage

The label will tell you how to store the product.

As soon as pesticides arrive, correctly store them in a locked and posted place. Children and other untrained persons should not be able to get to them.

The storage place should keep the pesticides dry, cool, and out of direct sunlight. It should have enough insulation to keep the chemicals from freezing or overheating.

The storage place should have:

- fire-resistant construction, including a cement floor,
- an exhaust fan for ventilation,
- good lighting, and
- a lock on the door.

Keep the door locked when the building is not in use.

The storage building should be away from where people and animals live. This will avoid or minimize harm to them in case of fire.

Store all pesticides in the original containers.

Do not store them near food, feed, seed, or animals.

Check every container often for leaks or breaks. If one is damaged, transfer the contents to a container that has held *exactly* the same pesticide. Clean up any spills correctly.

Keep an up-to-date inventory of the pesticides you have.

Mixing and Loading Pesticides

Keep livestock, pets, and people out of the mixing and loading area.

Do not work alone, especially at night.

Work outdoors. Choose a place with good light and ventilation. Do not mix or load pesticides indoors or at night unless there is good lighting and ventilation.

Before handling a pesticide container, put on the correct protective clothing and equipment.

Each time you use a pesticide, read the directions for mixing. Do this before you open the container. *This is essential.* Directions, including amounts and methods, are often changed.

Do not tear paper containers to open them. Use a sharp knife. Clean the knife afterwards, and do not use it for other purposes.

When taking a pesticide out of the container, keep the container and pesticide below eye level. This will avoid a splash or spill on your goggles or protective clothing. Do the same thing when pouring or dumping any pesticide.

If you splash or spill a pesticide while mixing or loading:

- Stop right away.
- Remove contaminated clothing.
- Wash thoroughly with detergent and water. *Speed is essential.*
- Clean up the spill.

When mixing pesticides, measure carefully. Use only the amount called for on the label. Mix only the amount you plan to use.

When loading pesticides, stand so the wind blows across your body from the right or left to avoid contaminating yourself.

To prevent spills, replace all pour caps and close containers after use.

Pesticide Application

Wear the correct protective clothing and equipment.

To prevent spillage of chemicals, check all application equipment for:

- leaking hoses, pumps, or connections, and
- plugged, worn, or dripping nozzles.

Use water to correctly calibrate spray equipment before use. Before starting a field application, clear all livestock and people from the area to be treated.

Drift is the movement of spray droplets or dust particles away from the target area. Drift increases:

- as droplet or particle size decreases, and
- as wind speed increases.

It can be minimized if you:

- spray at low pressure,
- use the largest practical nozzle openings, and
- spray during the calmer parts of the day.

Vaporization is the evaporation of an active ingredient during or after application. Pesticide vapors can cause injury far from the site of application. High temperatures increase vaporization. You can reduce vaporization by:

- choosing nonvolatile chemical formulations, and
- spraying in the cooler parts of the day.

Cleaning Equipment

Mixing, loading, and application equipment must be cleaned as soon as you finish using it. Clean both the inside and outside, including nozzles. Only trained persons should do this job. They should wear correct protective clothing.

Sometimes you may need to steam clean equipment or use special cleaning agents. In other cases, hot water and detergent may be enough.

Have a special area for cleaning. It is best for the area to have a wash rack or concrete apron with a good sump. This will catch all contaminated wash water and pesticides. Dispose of sump wastes by burning or burial as you would excess pesticides. Keep drainage out of water supplies and streams.

Equipment sometimes must be repaired before it is completely cleaned. Warn the person doing the repairs of the possible hazards.

Disposal

Excess Pesticides

EPA recommends ways to dispose of excess pesticides. Consult local authorities for procedures in your area. If you have excess organic pesticides:

- Use them up as directed on the label.
- Burn them in a specially designed pesticide incinerator.
- If you do not have access to proper facilities for burning, bury the pesticides in a specially designated landfill.
- If you cannot either burn or bury them right away, store the pesticides until you can.

These recommendations also tell you how to dispose of excess diluted liquid pesticides. Add these and rinse liquids to spray mixtures in the field when you can. If you cannot use excess diluted pesticides, follow the disposal instructions for excess pesticides.

Containers

To prepare containers for disposal:

1. Empty the container into the tank. Let it drain an extra 30 seconds.
2. Fill it one-fifth to one-fourth full of water.
3. Replace the closure and rotate the container. Upend the container so the rinse reaches all the side surfaces.
4. Drain the rinse water from the container into the tank. Let the container drain for 30 seconds after emptying.
5. Repeat steps 2 through 4 at least two more times for a total of three rinses.

Remember to empty each rinse solution into the tank.

The EPA recommendations divide containers into three groups. They tell you how to dispose of each kind.

Group I Containers—These are containers which will burn, and:

- held organic or metallo-organic pesticides, but not organic mercury, lead, cadmium, or arsenic compounds.

Here are ways to dispose of them:

- You may burn them in a special pesticide incinerator.
- You may bury them in a specially designated landfill.
- You may burn small numbers of them as directed by State and local regulations.
- You may bury them singly in open fields. Bury them at least 18 inches below the surface. Be careful not to pollute surface or subsurface water.

Group II Containers—These are containers which will *not* burn, and:

- held organic or metallo-organic pesticides, but not organic mercury, lead, cadmium, or arsenic compounds.

Here are ways to dispose of them:

- Rinse the containers three times.
- Many large containers in good shape can be reused by your supplier. Return them to the pesticide manufacturer or formulator, or drum reconditioner.
- You can send or take them to a place that will recycle them as scrap metal or dispose of them for you.
- All rinsed containers may be crushed and buried in a sanitary landfill. Follow State and local standards.
- You may bury them in the field.

If the containers have not been rinsed:

- Bury them in a specially designated landfill.

Group III Containers—These include any containers which held organic mercury, lead, cadmium, or arsenic, or inorganic pesticides. Here are ways to dispose of them:

- Rinse them three times and bury them in a sanitary landfill.
- If they are not rinsed, bury them in a specially designated landfill.

Cleanup of Pesticide Spills

Minor Spills

Keep people away from spilled chemicals. Rope off the area and flag it to warn people. Do not leave unless someone is there to warn of the danger.

If the pesticide was spilled on anyone, give the correct first aid.

Confine the spill. If it starts to spread, dike it up with sand or soil.

Use an absorbent material to soak up the spill. You can use soil, sawdust, or a special product made to do this. Shovel all contaminated material into a leakproof container for disposal. Dispose of it as you would excess pesticides. Do not hose down the area. This spreads the chemical.

Put something on the spill to stop the chemical action. You may be able to use common household bleach or a solution of lye or ammonia. If you are not sure what to use, call the chemical manufacturer. Always work carefully. Do not hurry.

Do not let anyone enter the area until the spill is all cleaned up.

Major Spills

The cleanup job may be too big for you to handle. You may not be sure of what to do. In either case, keep people away, give first aid, and confine the spill. Then call the manufacturer for help.

The National Agricultural Chemicals Association has a Pesticide Safety Team Network. They can tell you what to do. Or they can send a safety team to clean up the spill. You can call them toll-free any time at (800) 424-9300.

If a major pesticide spill occurs on a highway, have someone call the highway patrol or the sheriff for help. (Carry these phone numbers with you.) Do not leave until responsible help arrives.

Report all major spills by phone to your State pesticide regulatory agency. You also may need to notify other authorities:

If the spill is on a State highway, call:

- the highway patrol, or
- the State highway department.

If the spill is on a county road or a city street, call:

- the county sheriff, or
- city police.

If food is contaminated, notify:

- State or Federal food and drug authorities, or
- city, county, or State health officials.

If water is contaminated, notify:

- State health officials,
- regional, State, or Federal water quality or water pollution authorities, and
- the State fish and game agency.

Safe-Entry Times

It may be dangerous for an unprotected person to enter an area immediately after some pesticides have been used. The time that must pass before the area is safe for a person without protective clothing is called a safe-entry time, or reentry period. This time is given on the label of each pesticide that may cause a reentry problem. It varies according to the pesticide applied and the crop or area treated. These times have been set to allow harmful pesticide residues to break down or disappear. Reentry may pose special problems in some areas. Check with local authorities for any special rules that may apply.

Application Equipment

The pesticide application equipment you use is important to the success of your pest control job. You must first select the right kind of application equipment. Then you must use it correctly to suit your needs and take good care of it. These things are true whether you use hand-carried, tractor-drawn, self-propelled, or aircraft-mounted equipment. Here are some things you should know about choosing, using, and caring for equipment.

Sprayers

Your sprayer should be:

- designed to do the job you want to do,
- durable, and
- convenient to fill, operate, and clean.

Hand Sprayers

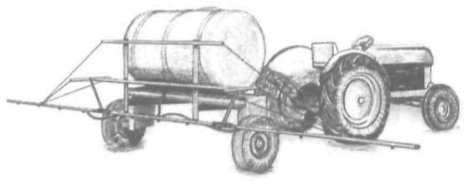
Hand sprayers are for professional application of pesticides in structures and can be used for small jobs around the home and garden. You can use them in restricted areas where a power unit would not work.

Advantages

- economical,
- simple, and
- easy to use, clean, and store.

Limitation

- frequent lack of good agitation and screening for wettable powders. Keep WP's in suspension by shaking the sprayer.



Low Pressure Field Sprayers

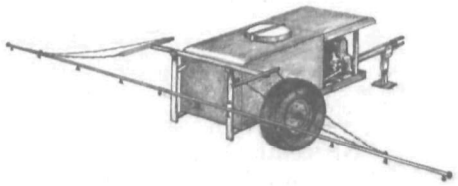
These sprayers are designed to deliver low to moderate volume at 15 to 50 psi. Most of them are used for treating field and forage crops, pastures, fence rows, and structures. They also may be used to apply fertilizer-pesticide mixtures.

Advantages

- medium to large tanks,
- low cost,
- light weight, and
- versatility.

Limitations

- low gallonage output limits their use when high volume is required,
- low pressure limits pesticide penetration, and
- agitation is limited.



High Pressure Sprayers

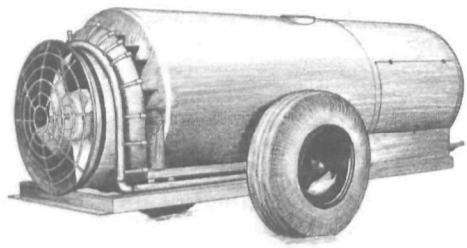
These are often called hydraulic sprayers. They are designed to deliver large volumes at high pressure. They are used to spray fruits, vegetables, trees, landscape plants, and livestock. When fitted with the correct pressure regulators, they can be used at low pressures. Applications usually are made at high gallonages (usually 100 or more per acre). Even though very large tanks are used, they may need to be filled often.

Advantages

- well built,
- usually have mechanical agitation, and
- last a long time even when using wettable powders.

Limitations

- high cost,
- large amounts of water, power, and fuel needed,
- high tire loads, and
- high pressure which makes a spray that drifts easily.



Air Blast Sprayers

These units use a high speed, fan-driven air stream to break the nozzle output into fine drops which move with the air stream to the target. The air is directed to either one or both sides as the sprayer moves forward. These sprayers are used in applying pesticides to landscape plants, fruits, and vegetables, and for biting fly control. Most air blast sprayers can be adapted to apply either high or low volumes of spray.

Advantages

- good coverage and penetration,
- low pump pressures, and
- mechanical agitation.

Limitations

- drift hazards,
- chance of overdosages,
- difficult to use in small areas, and
- hard to confine discharge to limited target areas.

Ultra Low Volume (ULV) Sprayers

Deliver undiluted pesticides from the air, on the ground, or in buildings.

Advantages

- no water is needed, and
- equal control with less pesticide.

Limitations

- does not provide for thorough wetting,
- hazards of using high concentrates,
- chance of overdosage, and
- small number of pesticides that can be used this way.

Sprayer Parts

Tanks

Tanks should have large openings for easy filling and cleaning. They should allow straining during filling and have mechanical or hydraulic agitation. The tank should be made of corrosion-resistant material such as stainless steel or glass reinforced plastic. If made of mild steel, it should have a protective plastic lining or coating. The tank should have a good drain. The outlets should be sized to the pump capacity. If you use dual tanks, make sure the plumbing allows for agitation and adequate withdrawal rates in both tanks. All tanks should have a gage to show the liquid level.

Flush out the tank, pump, lines, and nozzles after each day's use and each separate pesticide use. If switching to another pesticide where contamination must be prevented, wash out with detergent and water two or three times and then flush with water. Phenoxy herbicides such as 2,4-D are hard to remove. After using them, either follow the special cleaning procedures noted on the pesticide label or avoid using the same sprayer for any other product. Keep tank clean inside and out. Tighten or repair all leaky tank seals or fittings. Make sure sight gages can be read.

Pumps

The pump must be adequate for all the spraying pressures you use. It must provide enough flow to:

- supply all nozzles,
- allow for hydraulic agitation when needed, and
- leave a reserve to allow for loss of flow due to wear.

Pumps should resist corrosion and abrasion. Centrifugal pumps provide high volume at low pressure. They are not self-priming. Piston and diaphragm pumps provide moderate to high volumes at high pressure. They are self-priming. Roller and gear pumps provide moderate volume at low to moderate pressure. They are self-priming in most equipment. Do not use wettable powder formulations in gear pumps. If you need pressures above 75 psi, piston pumps are more likely to provide them over a long period of time.

You will damage a pump if you operate it dry or with a restricted inlet. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for pump operation. Keep all shields in place.

Strainers (Filters)

Proper filtering of the pesticide:

- protects the working parts of the sprayer, and
- avoids time loss and misapplication due to clogged nozzle tips.

Filtering should be progressive, with the largest mesh screen in the suction line between the tank and the pump. Put a smaller mesh screen in the high pressure line between the pump and the pressure regulator. Put the finest mesh screen nearest the nozzles. Do not use a screen in the suction line of a centrifugal pump.

Clean strainers after each use. Replace them if you see deterioration. Strainers are your best defense against nozzle and pump wear and nozzle clogging. Use nozzle screens as large as nozzle sizes permit. Screen opening should be less than nozzle opening.

Hoses

Select synthetic rubber or plastic hoses that:

- have burst strength greater than the peak operating pressures,
- resist oil and solvents present in pesticides, and
- are weather-resistant.

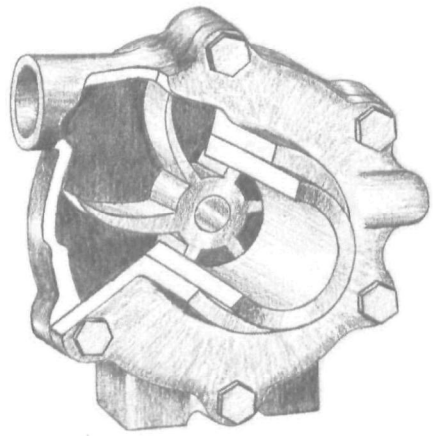
Suction hoses should resist collapse. They should be larger than pressure hoses. All fittings on suction lines should be as large as or larger than the line itself.

Keep hoses from kinking or being rubbed. Rinse them often, inside and outside, to prolong life. Remove and store hoses during off season, or at least store unit out of sun. Replace hoses at the first sign of surface deterioration.

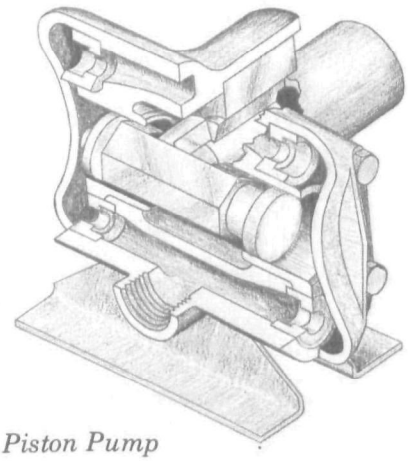
Pressure Gages

These serve as the monitor of your spraying job. They must be accurate and have only the range needed for your work. For example, a 0–60 psi gage with 2-pound gradations would be enough for most low pressure sprayers.

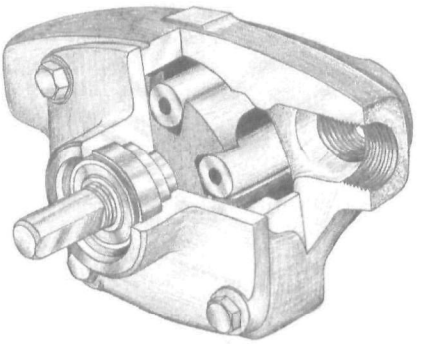
Check frequently for accuracy against an accurate gage. Do not use them under too much pressure. Keep glass faces clean and intact. Use gage protectors to protect against corrosive pesticides and pressure surges.



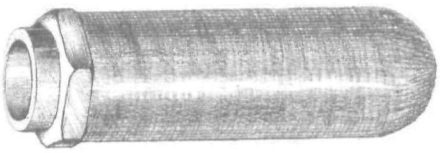
Centrifugal Pump



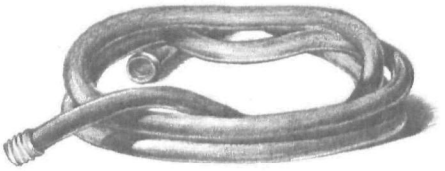
Piston Pump



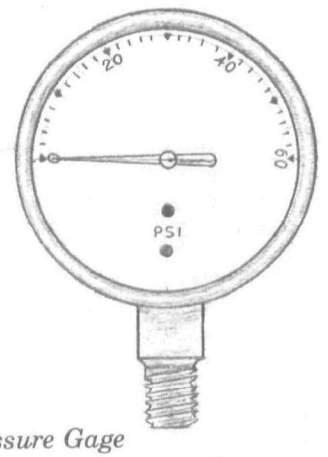
Roller Pump



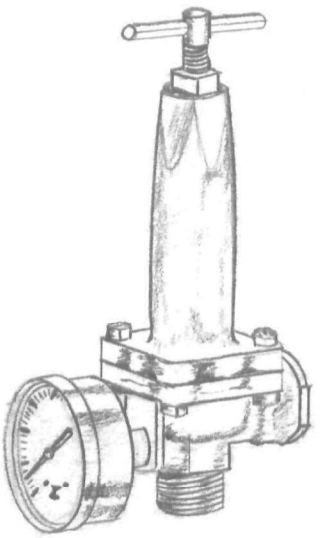
Strainer



Hose

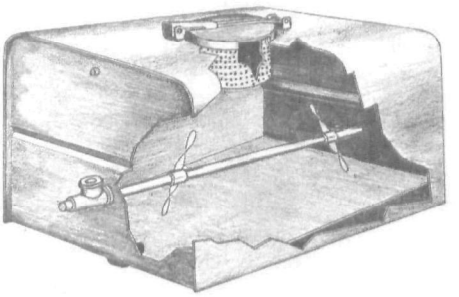


Pressure Gage



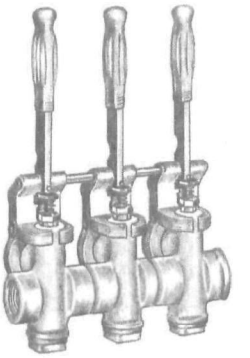
Pressure Regulators

The pressure regulator must have a working range that is about the same as the range of pressure you plan to use.



Agitators

Make sure your sprayer has enough agitation. If it does not, your pesticide application rate may vary greatly as the tank is emptied. Bypass agitation may be good enough for solutions and emulsions. Use a jet agitator or mechanical agitator for wettable powders. Mechanical agitation is the surest way to get good agitation. It is expensive initially and is harder to maintain. Hand sprayers must be shaken frequently.



Control Valves

These should be large enough so as not to restrict flow. They should be easy for you to reach. On-off action should be quick and positive. You need to be able to cut off all flow or flow to any section of the spraying system. There are many different kinds of control valves. Be sure you know how to operate and maintain the ones on your equipment.

Nozzles

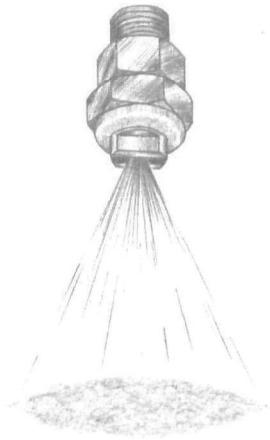
The nozzle helps control the rate and pattern of distribution. These things depend on:

- the nozzle design or type,
- its operating pressure,
- the size of the opening,
- its discharge angle, and
- its distance from the target.

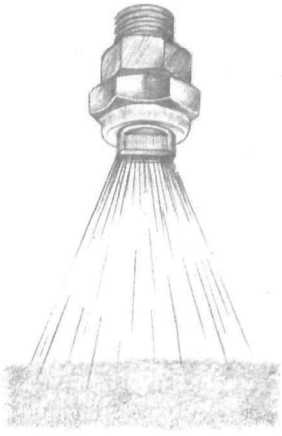
There are six basic nozzle types. They are:

Solid Stream—A type used in handguns to spray a distant target and for crack and crevice treatment in buildings. Also a type used in a nozzle body to apply pesticides in a narrow band or inject them into the soil.

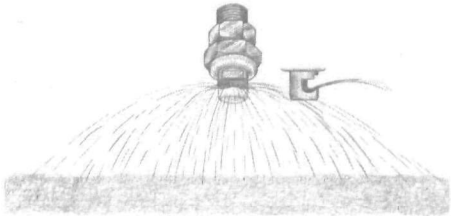
Flat Fan—There are three types of flat fan nozzles:



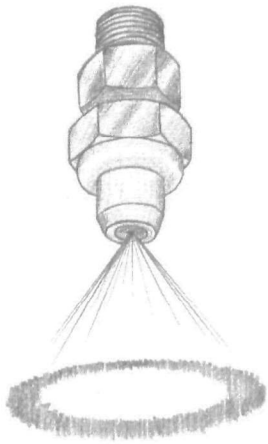
- The regular flat fan nozzle makes a narrow oval pattern with lighter edges. It is used for broadcast spraying. This pattern is designed to be used on a boom and to be overlapped 30–50 percent for even distribution.



- The even flat fan nozzle makes a uniform pattern across its width. It is used for band spraying and for treating walls and other surfaces.



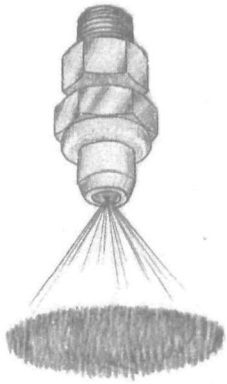
- The flooding nozzle makes a wide-angle flat spray pattern. It works at lower pressures than the other flat fan nozzles. Its pattern is fairly uniform across its width. It is used for broadcast spraying.



Hollow Cone—There are two types of hollow cone nozzles:

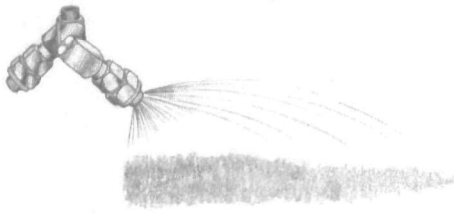
- the core and disk, and
- the whirl chamber.

The pattern is circular with tapered edges and little or no spray in the center. It is used for spraying foliage.



Solid Cone—This nozzle produces a circular pattern. The spray is well-distributed throughout the pattern. It is used for spraying foliage.

Atomizing Nozzle—Makes a fine mist from liquid pesticides. Used indoors in special situations.



Broadcast—This nozzle forms a wide flat fan pattern. It is used on boomless sprayers and to extend the effective swath width when attached to the end of a boom.

Many spraying jobs could be done by more than one nozzle type or pattern. Here are some general guidelines.

For weed control:

- regular flat fan,
- flooding fan,
- even flat fan,
- hollow cone.

For disease control:

- hollow cone,
- solid cone.

For insect control outdoors:

- regular flat fan,
- hollow cone,
- solid cone.

For insect control indoors:

- even flat fan,
- solid stream,
- atomizing.

To minimize drift:

- flooding fan,
- whirl chamber hollow cone,
- keep operating pressures below 30 psi.

You can get nozzles in many materials. Here are the main features of each kind.

Brass:

- inexpensive,
- wears quickly from abrasion,
- probably the best material for limited use.

Stainless steel:

- will not corrode,
- resists abrasion, especially if it is hardened.

Plastic:

- resists corrosion and abrasion.
- swells when exposed to some solvents.

Aluminum:

- resists some corrosive materials,
- is easily corroded by some fertilizers.

Tungsten carbide and ceramic:

- highly resistant to abrasion and corrosion,
- expensive.

Keep nozzles in good working condition. For most boom applications, select nozzles of uniform type and size.

Nozzle caps should not be over-tightened. Adjust nozzle distance and spacing to suit the target. Follow the nozzle manufacturer's instructions and the pesticide label. Allow for crop or weed height if necessary. Check each nozzle for uniform flow using water and a jar marked in ounces. Replace any whose flow is 5 percent more or less than the average. Replace any nozzles having faulty spray patterns. A good check is to spray on asphalt pavement. Watch for streaks as you increase speed or as spray dries.

Clean nozzles only with a toothbrush or wooden toothpick.

Operation and Maintenance

Always read and follow the operator's manuals for all your spray equipment. They will tell you exactly how to use and care for it. After each use, rinse out the entire system. Remove and clean nozzles, nozzle screens, and strainers. Check for leaks in lines, valves, seals, and tank both after filling with water and during running.

Be alert for nozzle clogging and changes in nozzle patterns. If nozzles clog or other trouble occurs in the field, be careful not to contaminate yourself while correcting the problem. Shut off the sprayer and move it to the edge of the field before dismounting. Wear protective clothing while making repairs.

Store sprayers correctly after use. But first, rinse and clean the system. Then fill tank almost full with clean water. Add a small amount of new light oil to the tank. Coat the system by pumping tank contents out through nozzles or handgun. Drain the pump and plug its openings or fill the pump with light oil or antifreeze. Remove nozzles and nozzle screens and store in light oil or diesel fuel.

Dusters and Granular Applicators

Hand Dusters

Like hand sprayers, hand dusters are for professional use in structures and can be used in gardens. They

may consist of a squeeze bulb, bellows, tube, or shaker, a sliding tube, or a fan powered by a hand crank.

Advantages

- the pesticide is ready to apply, and
- good penetration in confined spaces.

Limitations

- high cost for pesticide,
- hard to get good foliar coverage, and
- dust is subject to drifting.

Power Dusters

Power dusters use a powered fan or blower to propel the dust to the target. They range from knapsack or backpack types to those mounted on or pulled by tractors. Their capacity in area treated per hour compares favorably with some sprayers.

Advantages

- simply built,
- easy to maintain, and
- low in cost.

Limitations

- drift hazards,
- high cost of pesticide, and
- application may be less uniform than with sprays.

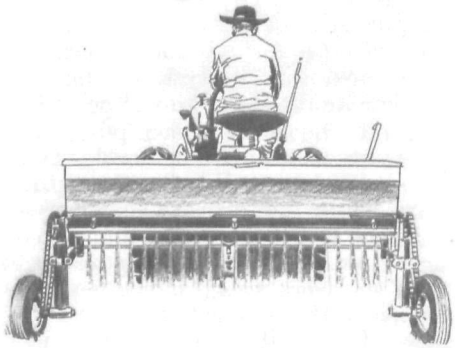
Selecting a Duster

Look for a power duster that is easy to clean. It should give a uniform application rate as the hopper is emptied. Look for both hand and power dusters that keep the dust cloud well away from the user.

Granular Applicators

These include:

- hand-carried knapsack and spinning disk types for broadcast coverage,
- mounted equipment for applying bands over the row in row crops, and
- mounted or tractor-drawn machines for broadcast coverage.



Advantages

- eliminates mixing,
- is low in cost,
- minimizes drift, and
- is less hazardous to applicator.

Limitations

- high cost for pesticide,
- limited use against some pests because granules won't stick to most plants,
- need to calibrate for each granular formulation, and
- poor lateral distribution, especially on side slopes.

Selecting a Granular Applicator

Choose a granular applicator that is easy to clean and fill. It should have mechanical agitation over the outlet holes. This will prevent bridging and keep flow rate constant. Application should stop when drive stops even if outlets are still open.

Use and Maintenance

Both dusters and granular applicators are speed-sensitive, so maintain uniform speed. Do not travel too fast for ground conditions. Bouncing equipment will cause the application rate to vary. Stay out of any dust cloud that may form.

Watch banders to see that band width stays the same. Small height changes due to changing soil conditions may cause rapid changes in band width.

Clean equipment as directed by the operator's manual.

Fumigant Applicators

This equipment is of two types:

- that needed to handle low pressure fumigants, and
- that needed to handle high pressure fumigants which are kept liquid only by storage in pressure vessels.

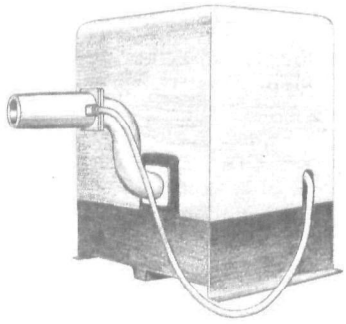
The low pressure fumigators are gravity or pump fed units. Most high pressure units use the pressure generated by the fumigant or a compressed gas to force the fumigant into the soil or space being fumigated.

Selection

Choosing equipment to apply low pressure fumigants is similar to choosing a low pressure sprayer. But corrosion-resistant pumps, tanks, fittings, nozzles, and lines are essential. High pressure fumigators must be able to withstand the internal pressure created by the fumigant. Select equipment with pressure or flow regulators that assure constant delivery rates.

Use and Maintenance

Keep the units in good repair. Make sure there are no leaks. Replace hoses and fittings as soon as you see signs of deterioration. Lines and fittings should not be located near the operator. Empty all lines after application. To avoid contamination and corrosion, flush the units after use. Carefully follow all precautions on the fumigant label.



Aerosol Generators and Foggers

Aerosol generators work by using:

- atomizing nozzles,
- spinning disks, and
- small nozzles at high pressure.

Fogs are usually generated by thermal generators using heated surfaces.

Advantages

- efficient distribution of liquid pesticides in enclosed spaces,
- efficient distribution of liquid pesticides in dense foliage, and
- some devices automatic in operation.

Limitations

- aerosols and fogs extremely sensitive to drift, and
- repeated application needed to maintain effectiveness.

Selection

Choose an aerosol generator according to where you will use it—indoors or outdoors. Aerosol and fog generators are manufactured for many special uses. Truck- and trailer-mounted machines are for use outdoors. Most hand-operated or permanently mounted automatic machines are for use indoors.

Use and Maintenance

In general, use and care for an aerosol generator as you would a sprayer. They do require special precautions. Be sure that the pesticides used in them are registered for such use. Keep them on the target. Because of the effects of weather conditions during application, follow special use instructions. The operator, other humans, and animals must be kept out of the fog or smoke cloud.

Calibration

Calibration is simply adjusting your equipment to apply the desired rate of pesticide. You need to do this so that you can be sure you are using each pesticide as directed on the label. Too much pesticide is dangerous; too little will not do a good job. Only by calibrating correctly can you safely get the best results.

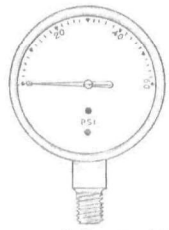
There are many ways to calibrate equipment. The preferred methods differ according to the kind of equipment you use. Your Cooperative Extension Service personnel can show you how to calibrate your equipment. Here is one basic method for sprayers and another for dusters and granular applicators.

Sprayers

To apply a pesticide evenly and accurately, your sprayer must move at a constant speed. It also must operate at a constant pressure. Each nozzle must be clean and at the right height. All nozzles must be of the correct type and size for the job. Each nozzle in the system must deliver its rated amount of pesticide.

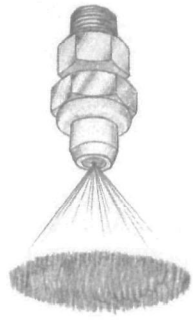
First, choose the speed, pumping pressure, and nozzle or nozzles that you want to use. Fill the spray tank with water and operate the sprayer in place to fill the plumbing. Top off the tank and spray a measured area as if you were applying the pesticide. Measure the amount of water needed to refill your tank. This is the application rate per unit of area. If it takes 8 gallons to refill the tank after spraying one acre, you are spraying at the rate of 8 gallons per acre. If your sprayer has a tank of more than 100 gallons capacity, you should spray an area large enough to use at least 10 percent of the tank capacity.

If your sprayer is delivering more or less spray than the label directs, you can change the rate three ways:



- You can change the pressure. Lower pressure means less spray delivered; higher pressure means more spray delivered. This is not a good method, because a pressure change may change the nozzle pattern and droplet size. Pressure must be increased 4 times to double the output.

- You can change the speed of your sprayer. Slower speed means more spray delivered, faster speed means less spray delivered. This method is practical for small changes in delivery rate. If you drive half as fast, you double the delivery rate.



- You can change the nozzle tips to change the amount delivered. The larger the hole in the tip, the more spray delivered. This is the best method for making major changes in the delivery rate

of sprayers. Always select nozzles for the job you want done. Use the manufacturer's performance charts to make your selection.

After making a change, you must recalibrate your sprayer to make sure the rate is correct.

You have adjusted your sprayer and you know how many gallons of spray per unit of area your equipment will apply. Next you must find out how much pesticide to put in the tank to apply the correct dosage of pesticide. To do this you need to know two more facts:

- How much your sprayer tank holds.
- The amount of formulation to be used per unit of area. This will be given on the label.

Suppose your tank holds 50 gallons of spray. The directions say to apply one pint of formulation on each acre. In our example, you found that your sprayer applies 8 gallons per acre. First find the number of acres one tank load will spray. Divide 50 gallons by 8.

$$\frac{50 \text{ gallons per tankful}}{8 \text{ gallons per acre}} = 6\frac{1}{4} \text{ acres per tankful}$$

To find the amount of formulation you must add to your tank so you can spray $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres with one pint per acre, multiply 1 pint by $6\frac{1}{4}$.

1 pint per acre × $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres per tankful = $6\frac{1}{4}$ pints per tankful.

Suppose the formulation of a pesticide is a 50 percent wettable powder and you want to apply $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of active ingredient per acre. In our example your tank will cover $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

Add the proper amount of pesticide

Find how many pounds of formulation are needed to apply $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of active ingredient per acre. There is $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of active ingredient in 1 pound of 50 percent wettable powder formulation. So you need to use 1 pound of formulation for each acre your sprayer will cover.

1 pound per acre × $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres per tankful = $6\frac{1}{4}$ pounds per tankful.

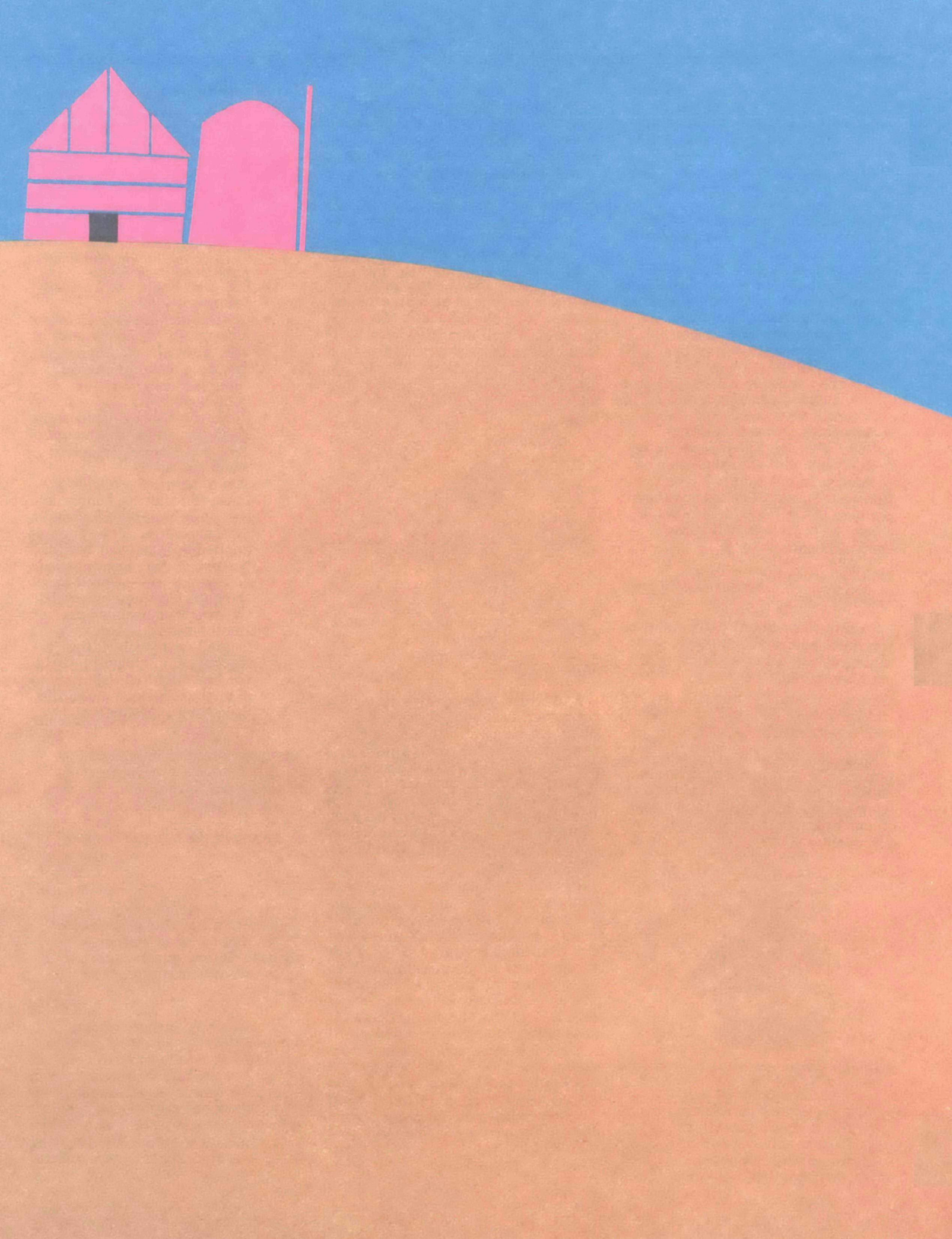
You should add the $6\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of wettable powder to a small amount of water in a clean bucket. Stir until it is mixed well and then add this mixture (called a slurry) to the partly filled tank. Remember to operate the sprayer's agitator while adding the slurry and filling the tank.

Make a slurry

Even after your sprayer is calibrated, you should recheck it often. Be sure you are spraying the same size area for each tankful as you figured on. If you are spraying more or less acres than you planned, stop spraying and recalibrate. If you have figured wrong or your sprayer changes its delivery rate, you will be able to catch it before you make a major mistake.

Dusters and Granular Applicators

- Read the manufacturer's operator's manual. Follow these instructions to set the gate openings for the product you are going to use. **Caution:** always set the openings from the same direction, such as from closed to open. This will minimize variations in settings.
- Fill each hopper to an easily determined level.
- Operate the equipment over a measured area or distance at your normal working speed. The area should be large enough to use $\frac{1}{4}$ of the hopper contents.
- Refill the hopper to the same level, weighing the amount of pesticide needed to replace what was used.
- The amount of pesticide it takes to refill the hopper is the amount applied to the measured area. If the amount applied does not fall within 5 percent of the recommended dosage per unit of area, reset the gate opening and repeat the previous three steps.
- Keep a record of the area treated with each filling of the hopper. This will let you see any slight change in rate of application and make the necessary adjustments.



Laws and Regulations

Without pesticides, we would not have the food, fiber, and landscape plants we need. But because pesticides can be dangerous, Congress has passed laws affecting pesticide use. These laws try to balance the need for pesticides against the need to protect people and the environment from their misuse.

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as Amended

You are taking this training because of a law passed by Congress in 1972. It is often called by its initials—FIFRA. It requires you to show that you know the correct way to use and handle pesticides.

Here are the parts of the law which concern you the most:

- It says that all pesticide uses must be *classified* as either general or restricted.
- It requires you to be *certified* as competent to use any of the pesticides classifed for restricted use, and
- It provides *penalties* (fines and jail terms) for people who do not obey the law.

Congress chose October 21, 1976, as the date for certification to go into effect. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), acting under Federal law, has by regulation set minimum standards of competency for all commercial applicators. Your State has developed a plan for certification of competency that meets minimum national standards. The certification plan in your State will be administered by a branch of your State government.

Classification of Pesticides

Manufacturers must register every pesticide with EPA. By regulation, when each pesticide is registered, all its uses must be classified. EPA must decide whether each use is a general or a restricted one.

Under the law, pesticide uses that will damage the environment very little or not at all when done as the label directs can be classified as *general uses*.

Uses that could cause damage even when done as directed on the label must be classified as *restricted uses*. They may be carried out only:

- by someone who is certified, or
- under a certified person's supervision.

Some uses may be general under some conditions and restricted under others.

Certification of Applicators

What is certification? It is proof that you know the safe and correct way to carry out restricted uses. Both private and commercial applicators will have to meet State and national standards. Your State has its own program for seeing that you meet these standards.

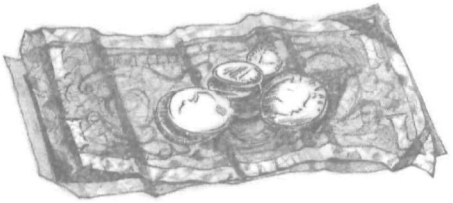
Prohibited Actions

The new law names many things you cannot do. These two concern you most:

- You may not use a pesticide other than as the label or labeling directs, except when special regulations allow you to use it at a lower rate than the label recommends.
- You may not dispose of any pesticide or its container except as the label or labeling directs.

You also should know your State and local laws. They may prohibit more actions than the Federal law does.

The applicator is responsible for proper pesticide use.



Penalties

If you violate the FIFRA, you are subject to civil penalties. They can be as much as $5,000 for each offense. Before EPA can fine you, you have the right to ask for a hearing in your own city or county. Violations of the law may also subject you to criminal penalties. They can be as much as $25,000 or one year in prison, or both.

Other Regulations

Transportation

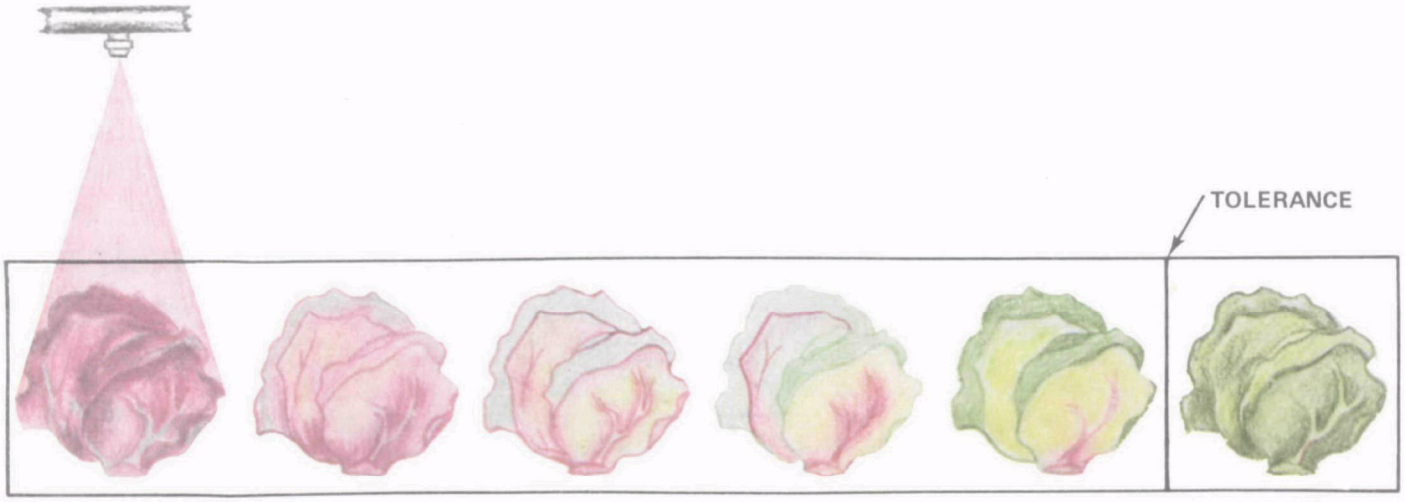
Shipment of pesticides and other dangerous substances across State lines is regulated by the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT issues the rules for hauling these materials.

DOT standards tell you which pesticides:

- are dangerous to man, and
- create a health hazard during transportation.

If you ever haul pesticides between States, you should know that:

- They must be in their original packages. Each package must meet DOT standards.
- The vehicle must have a correct sign. Manufacturers must put the correct warning signs on each package.
- The pesticides may not be hauled in the same vehicle with food products.



- You must contact DOT right away after each accident:
  a) when someone is killed,
  b) when someone is injured badly enough to go to a hospital, or
  c) when damage is more than $50,000.
- You must tell DOT about all spills during shipment.

State and local laws may require you to take additional precautions.

Aerial Application

Application of pesticides from airplanes also is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and may be regulated by your State. FAA judges:

- the flying ability of pilots, and
- the safety of their aircraft.

FAA rules, too, say that an aerial applicator may not apply any pesticide except as the label directs.

Worker Safety

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 is administered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the Department of Labor (DOL). It requires anyone with 11 or more workers to keep records and make reports. The records must include all *work-related* deaths, injuries, and illnesses. Minor injuries needing only first aid treatment need not be recorded. But a record must be made if the injury involves:

- medical treatment,
- loss of consciousness,
- restriction of work or motion, or
- transfer to another job.

Residues

The pesticide that stays in or on raw farm products or processed foods is called a *residue*. EPA sets residue *tolerances* under regulations authorized by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. A tolerance is the concentration of a pesticide that is judged safe for human use. Residues in processed foods are considered to be food additives and are regulated as such.

Tolerances are expressed in "parts per million" (ppm). One ppm equals one part (by weight) of pesticide for each million parts of farm or food product. Using pounds as a measure, 50 ppm would be 50 pounds of pesticide in a million pounds of the product. The same pesticide may have a different tolerance on different products. It might be 50 ppm on grapes and 25 ppm on apples.

If too much residue is found on a farm or food product, the product may be seized or condemned.

The label will tell you how many days before harvest the pesticide may be applied. Follow the label exactly. Then you can be sure you are not breaking the law.

Other Terms Used in Pest Control

Some of these words have several meanings. Those given here are the ones that relate to pest control.

Abrasion: The process of wearing away by rubbing.

Abscission: The separation of fruit, leaves, or stems from a plant.

Absorption: The process by which a chemical is taken into plants, animals, or minerals. Compare with *adsorption*.

Activator: A chemical added to a pesticide to increase its activity.

Adherence: Sticking to a surface.

Adjuvant: Inert ingredient added to a pesticide formulation to make it work better.

Adsorption: The process by which chemicals are held on the surface of a mineral or soil particle. Compare with *absorption*.

Adulterated: Any pesticide whose strength or purity falls below the quality stated on its label. Also, a food, feed, or product that contains illegal pesticide residues.

Aerobic: Living in air. The opposite of anaerobic.

Aerosol: An extremely fine mist or fog consisting of solid or liquid particles suspended in air. Also, certain formulations used to produce a fine mist.

Agitation: The process of stirring or mixing in a sprayer.

Alkaloids: Chemicals present in some plants. Some are used as pesticides.

Anaerobic: Living in the absence of air. The opposite of aerobic.

Animal Sign: The evidences of an animal's presence in an area.

Antagonism: The loss of activity of a chemical when exposed to another chemical.

Antibiotic: A substance which is used to control pest microorganisms.

Antidote: A practical treatment for poisoning, including first aid.

Aqueous: A term used to indicate the presence of water in a solution.

Arsenicals: Pesticides containing arsenic.

Aseptic: Free of disease-causing organisms.

Bait Shyness: The tendency for rodents, birds, or other pests to avoid a poisoned bait.

Bipyridyliums: A group of synthetic organic pesticides which includes the herbicide paraquat.

Botanical Pesticide: A pesticide made from plants. Also called plant-derived pesticides.

Broadleaf Weeds: Plants with broad, rounded, or flattened leaves.

Brush Control: Control of woody plants.

Carbamate: A synthetic organic pesticide containing carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and sulfur.

Carcinogenic: Can cause cancer.

Carrier: The inert liquid or solid material added to an active ingredient to prepare a pesticide formulation.

Causal Organism: The organism (pathogen) that produces a specific disease.

Chemosterilant: A chemical that can prevent reproduction.

Chlorinated Hydrocarbon: A synthetic organic pesticide that contains chlorine, carbon, and hydrogen. Same as organochlorine.

Chlorosis: The yellowing of a plant's green tissue.

Cholinesterase: A chemical catalyst (enzyme) found in animals that helps regulate the activity of nerve impulses.

Compatible: When two or more chemicals can be mixed without affecting each other's properties, they are said to be compatible.

Concentration: The amount of active ingredient in a given volume or weight of formulation.

Contaminate: To make impure or to pollute.

Corrosion: The process of wearing away by chemical means.

Crucifers: Plants belonging to the mustard family, such as mustard, cabbage, turnip, and radish.

Cucurbits: Plants belonging to the gourd family, such as pumpkin, cucumber, and squash.

Deciduous Plants: Perennial plants that lose their leaves during the winter.

Deflocculating Agent: A material added to a suspension to prevent settling.

Degradation: The process by which a chemical is reduced to a less complex form.

Dermal: Of the skin; through or by the skin.

Dermal Toxicity: Ability of a chemical to cause injury when absorbed through the skin.

Diluent: Any liquid or solid material used to dilute or carry an active ingredient.

Dilute: To make thinner by adding water, another liquid, or a solid.

Dispersing Agent: A material that reduces the attraction between particles.

Dormant: State in which growth of seeds or other plant organs stops temporarily.

Dose, Dosage: Quantity of a pesticide applied.

Emulsifier: A chemical which aids in suspending one liquid in another.

Emulsion: A mixture in which one liquid is suspended as tiny drops in another liquid, such as oil in water.

Fungistat: A chemical that keeps fungi from growing.

GPA: Gallons per acre.

GPM: Gallons per minute.

Growth Stages of Cereal Crops: (1) Tillering—when additional shoots are developing from the flower buds. (2) Jointing—when stem internodes begin elongating rapidly. (3) Booting—when upper leaf sheath swells due to the growth of developing spike or panicle. (4) Heading—when seed head is emerging from the upper leaf sheath.

Hard (water): Water containing soluble salts of calcium and magnesium and sometimes iron.

Herbaceous Plant: A plant that does not develop woody tissue.

Hydrogen-Ion Concentration: A measure of acidity or alkalinity, expressed in terms of the pH of the solution. For example, a pH of 7 is neutral, from 1 to 7 is acid, and from 7 to 14 is alkaline.

Immune: Not susceptible to a disease or poison.

Impermeable: Cannot be penetrated. Semipermeable means that some substances can pass through and others cannot.

Lactation: The production of milk by an animal, or the period during which an animal is producing milk.

LC50: The concentration of an active ingredient in air which is expected to cause death in 50 percent of the test animals so treated. A means of expressing the toxicity of a compound present in air as dust, mist, gas, or vapor. It is generally expressed as micrograms per liter as a dust or mist but in the case of a gas or vapor as parts per million (ppm).

LD50: The dose of an active ingredient taken by mouth or absorbed by the skin which is expected to cause death in 50 percent of the test animals so treated. If a chemical has an LD50 of 10 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) it is more toxic than one having an LD50 of 100 mg/kg.

Leaching: Movement of a substance downward or out of the soil as the result of water movement.

Mammals: Warm-blooded animals that nourish their young with milk. Their skin is more or less covered with hair.

Miscible Liquids: Two or more liquids that can be mixed and will remain mixed under normal conditions.

MPH: Miles per hour.

Mutagenic: Can produce genetic change.

Necrosis: Localized death of living tissue such as the death of a certain area of a leaf.

Necrotic: Showing varying degrees of dead areas or spots.

Nitrophenols: Synthetic organic pesticides containing carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen.

Noxious Weed: A plant defined as being especially undesirable or troublesome.

Oral: Of the mouth; through or by the mouth.

Oral Toxicity: Ability of a pesticide to cause injury when taken by mouth.

Organic Compounds: Chemicals that contain carbon.

Organochlorine: Same as chlorinated hydrocarbon.

Organophosphate: A synthetic organic pesticide containing carbon, hydrogen, and phosphorus; parathion and malathion are two examples.

Ovicide: A chemical that destroys eggs.

Pathogen: Any disease-producing organism.

Penetration: The act of entering or ability to enter.

Phytotoxic: Harmful to plants.

Pollutant: An agent or chemical that makes something impure or dirty.

PPB: Parts per billion. A way to express the concentration of chemicals in foods, plants, and animals. One part per billion equals 1 pound in 500,000 tons.

PPM: Parts per million. A way to express the concentration of chemicals in foods, plants, and animals. One part per million equals 1 pound in 500 tons.

Predator: An animal that destroys or eats other animals.

Propellant: Liquid in self-pressurized pesticide products that forces the active ingredient from the container.

PSI: Pounds per square inch.

Pubescent: Having hairy leaves or stems.

RPM: Revolutions per minute.

Safener: A chemical added to a pesticide to keep it from injuring plants.

Seed Protectant: A chemical applied to seed before planting to protect seeds and new seedlings from disease and insects.

Soil Sterilant: A chemical that prevents the growth of all plants and animals in the soil. Soil sterilization may be temporary or permanent, depending on the chemical.

Soluble: Will dissolve in a liquid.

Solution: Mixture of one or more substances in another in which all ingredients are completely dissolved.

Solvent: A liquid which will dissolve a substance to form a solution.

Spreader: A chemical which increases the area that a given volume of liquid will cover on a solid or on another liquid.

Sticker: A material added to a pesticide to increase its adherence.

Surfactant: A chemical which increases the emulsifying, dispersing, spreading, and wetting properties of a pesticide product.

Susceptible: Capable of being diseased or poisoned; not immune.

Susceptible Species: A plant or animal that is poisoned by moderate amounts of a pesticide.

Suspension: Finely divided solid particles mixed in a liquid.

Synergism: The joint action of two or more pesticides that is greater than the sum of their activity when used alone.

Target Pest: The pest at which a particular pesticide or other control method is directed.

Tolerance: (1) The ability of a living thing to withstand adverse conditions, such as pest attacks, weather extremes, or pesticides. (2) The amount of pesticide that may safely remain in or on raw farm products at time of sale.

Toxicant: A poisonous chemical.

Trade Name: Same as brand name.

Vapor Pressure: The property which causes a chemical to evaporate. The lower the vapor pressure, the more easily it will evaporate.

Vector: A carrier, such as an insect, that transmits a pathogen.

Viscosity: A property of liquids that determines whether they flow readily. Viscosity usually increases when temperature decreases.

Volatile: Evaporates at ordinary temperatures when exposed to air.

Wetting Agent: A chemical which causes a liquid to contact surfaces more thoroughly.

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Weights and Measures

Weights
16 ounces = 1 pound
1 gallon water = 8.34 pounds

Liquid Measure
1 fluid ounce = 2 tablespoons
16 fluid ounces = 1 pint
2 pints = 1 quart
8 pints = 4 quarts = 1 gallon

Length
3 feet = 1 yard
16 ½ feet = 1 rod
5,280 feet = 320 rods = 1 mile

Area
9 square feet = 1 square yard
43,560 square feet = 160 square rods = 1 acre

Speed
1.466 feet per second = 88 feet per minute = 1 mph

Volume
27 cubic feet = 1 cubic yard