

Basic Elements of Safe Pesticide Use

- Always read the label with care. This is the first step in selecting the right material for the job. Never rely on your memory. Before opening the container, pay strict attention to warnings and cautions printed on the label.
- Keep all pesticide and spray materials out of the reach of children, pets, and irresponsible persons. Storage outside of the home, away from food and feed, and under lock and key is the safest method.
- Store only in the original container and keep tightly closed.
- NEVER smoke, eat, or drink while applying pesticides.
- Avoid inhalation or direct contact. Always wear protective clothing and safety devices as recommended on the label.
- Avoid spills. If spills occur, take immediate action to remove contaminated clothing and wash thoroughly.
- After each application, bathe and change to clean clothing. Wash clothing after each use. Always use fresh clothing when starting new application.
- Avoid contamination of fish ponds and water supplies. Cover feed and water containers when treating around livestock or pet areas.
- Keep separate equipment for use with hormone-type herbicides to avoid accidental injury to susceptible plants. Also avoid applications under wind conditions that could create drift to nontarget areas.
- Rinse empty containers three times before disposing of them. Add the rinse to the spray tank and dispose of containers according to local regulations to avoid hazard to humans, animals, and the environment.
- Follow label directions for mixing and application to keep residues within the limits prescribed by law.
- Plan ahead. Discuss with your physician the materials you will be using during the season so that he or she can be prepared to provide the appropriate treatment in case of accidental exposure. If symptoms of illness occur, call the physician or get the patient to a hospital immediately. Always provide the medical personnel with as much information as possible.
- Be cautious when you apply pesticides. Know your legal responsibility as a pesticide applicator. You may be liable for injury or damage resulting from pesticide use.

Oregon Poison Center

The Oregon Health & Science University
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, OR 97239
Phone: 1-800-222-1222

If a person has collapsed or is not breathing, dial 911.

Prepared by Joe DeFrancesco, assistant professor; Jay W. Pscheidt, Extension plant pathology specialist; and Wei Yang, Extension agent, North Willamette Research and Extension Center; all of Oregon State University. The information in this pest management guide is valid for 2014. Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service either endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned. Due to constantly changing laws and regulations, the Oregon State University Extension Service can assume no liability for the suggested use of chemicals contained in this guide. Pesticides should be applied according to the label directions on the pesticide container.

© 2014 Oregon State University. This publication was produced and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties. Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Revised April 2014.

Use only one material except where a combination is indicated. Follow label precautions when tank-mixing oils, fungicides, and insecticides. Materials are not listed in order of preference.