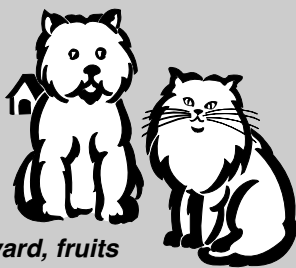


Safety Rules

Always follow safe pesticide spraying rules when applying chemicals:

- Always wear appropriate safety equipment (read label).
- Do not treat on a windy day as you may contaminate non-target items such as roofs, pets, neighbours yard, fruits and vegetables.
- Only treat the intended plant.
- Only make up the amount of pesticide to be used. You do not want to store leftovers.
- Do not use sprays or dusts before rain – it will be washed off.
- When finished applying the pesticide, rinse out sprayer and mixing equipment at least three times, to wash away pesticide residue.
- Wash any contaminated clothing separately from your regular laundry.



The mission of the Pesticides Focus Group is: "To promote the safe and responsible use of pesticides, and actively encourage the use of alternatives, through the implementation of new policies, regulations and educational programmes".

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and funded by



Please use all pesticides safely. Follow all instructions on the labels.

The Pesticides Focus Group will not be liable for the misuse of any of the suggested pesticide alternatives.



Safe Pesticide Use



Many pesticides are available for purchase by the homeowner to control pests and diseases. These can range from non-toxic in strength to very toxic. Without being aware of the proper safe handling procedures the homeowner and their unsuspecting neighbours or pets can be put at considerable risk.

It is therefore essential to know how to handle, apply and store pesticides.

Always buy the least toxic chemical necessary for the job.

Useful Websites:

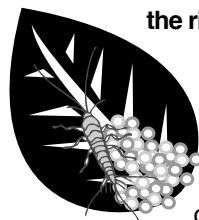
<http://www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/links/pest.htm>

<http://www.pesticide.org>



If you do need to purchase a pesticide, use the following guidelines:

1. **Be sure you are treating the right pest with the right product.** Take a sample



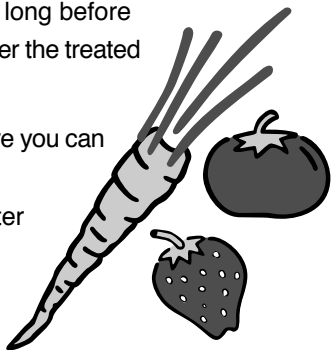
of the problem (e.g. cutting of plant with pest) to a professional for identification. When choosing the pesticide ask a professional which is the appropriate product for control of your pest.

2. **Always try to purchase the least toxic chemical.** Many materials will do the job – some are more toxic than others. Always enquire whether your pesticide supplier has the least toxic choice available.

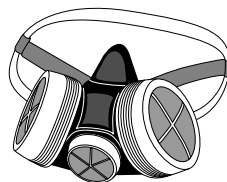


3. **Always read the label before use.** The label contains critical information including:

- how much pesticide to use
- which plants or locations to use the pesticide how long before you can re-enter the treated area
- how long before you can eat fruits or vegetables after treating
- how toxic the chemical is



- what safety equipment to use (gloves, respirator etc.).



The front of the label can immediately give you an indication of how toxic it is. Look towards the bottom of the label for the 'signal' word:

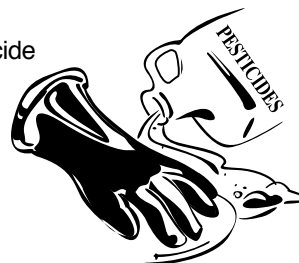
- “Caution” – low to slight toxicity
- “Warning” – moderately toxic
- “Danger” – dangerously toxic /poison

4. **Always follow the instructions on the label.**

The recommended dose is the correct amount of pesticide to use. Never use more - this can put you or others at risk. Never apply pesticides to a plant that is not specified on the label, especially when dealing with fruits or vegetables.

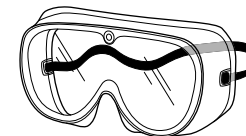
5. **Always store pesticides in a dry cupboard, preferably locked and labeled, away from children and food.** Ensure that the label is legible and is not deteriorated (it is a good idea to take a photocopy of the entire label when you first purchase it). Always store the pesticides in its original container. Do not pour or store in other containers. You may not be the only person who needs to know what chemical is in the bottle.

Always handle pesticide bottles wearing gloves. The bottle may be leaking, or have residue on the outside.



6. **When mixing the chemical, always wear appropriate personal protective equipment.**

At the very minimum, ensure that you are wearing gloves and eye protection. Remember that you are often dealing with the **concentrated** form of the chemical. When spraying a tall plant or tree wear protective coveralls and goggles to protect yourself from the spray.



7. **Act quickly in the case of accidental poisoning.** If pesticide spills on clothing or skin, wash immediately with warm soapy water. If inhaled or swallowed, take the contaminated person immediately to the emergency room with the pesticide bottle with the label attached (sealed in a plastic bag to prevent further spills).

8. **Always dispose of empty pesticide bottles appropriately.** Rinse out empty bottles at least three times to remove residue, then spray the rinse water the same way as you would use the pesticide. Puncture empty bottles/bags (to prevent reuse as a storage container), wrap in newspaper or plastic bag and dispose of in regular trash. If you have leftover chemicals – contact Hazardous Waste Disposal (297-7857) for further instructions.

NEVER pour pesticides on to ground or near water. This may cause serious environmental damage. If you have disposal questions contact your pesticide supplier for further information.