



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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THE PESTICIDE LABEL

L.G. Skoglund
S.K. McDonald

This fact sheet covers the parts of the pesticide label including information on the label and signal words.

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The Pesticide Label

The best source of information concerning the safe and effective use of a pesticide is the label on the pesticide container. It is illegal to use any registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its label. A pesticide label is a legal document produced after years of research and millions of dollars spent supporting that research. Use of a pesticide implies the label has been read and understood.

READ THE LABEL!

Information on the Label

- **Product name** - brand name, concentration, and formulation
- **Ingredients**
 - Active - actual toxic components. May be found under a number of product names
 - Other ingredients - components non-toxic to pest may not be identified
- **Use Classification**
 - Restricted - most concentrated and toxic to humans and/or environment. Available only to certified applicators with a special license
 - General - products available to the general public.
 - Commercial and agricultural - not approved for home use
 - Domestic - approved for use in homes and gardens
- **Precautionary and hazard statements**
 - Signal words
 - Worker and environmental protection statements
- **Amount of product** in the container - volume or weight
- **Directions for use**
 - The site (crop, animal, location, etc.) the product is intended to protect
 - Plants on which it can be used
 - Pests for which it can be used
 - Mixing and application rates
 - Re-entry times
 - Harvest intervals
- **Storage and disposal instructions**
- **Personal protective equipment needed**



- **First aid instructions**
- **EPA registration number**
- **Name and address of manufacturer**

Signal Words - indicate the toxicity and/or hazards associated with the use of the pesticide.

- **CAUTION** - least toxic - 1 ounce to 1 pint swallowed lethal to an adult
- **WARNING** - 1 to 3 teaspoons swallowed lethal to an adult
- **DANGER/POISON** - most toxic - 1 to 3 swallowed drops lethal to an adult



Uses Inconsistent with Labeling

Four exemptions exist in accordance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) which allow applicators to deviate from label directions:

- Applying a pesticide at any dosage, concentration, or frequency less than that specified on the labeling
- Applying a pesticide against any target pest not specified on the labeling if the application is to the crop, animal, or site specified on the labeling, unless the labeling specifically prohibits use against other pests
- Employing any method of application not prohibited by the labeling
- Mixing a pesticide or pesticides with a fertilizer when such mixture is not prohibited by the labeling

Do Not:

- Apply pesticides at a higher rate than is on the label
- Remove the label
- Put pesticides in other containers
- Store pesticides near children and/or pets

References and Resources

Buffington, E.J. and McDonald, S.K. 2001. *General Colorado Commercial Pesticide Application and Safety Training Guide*. Colorado State University and Colorado Department of Agriculture, Fort Collins, CO.

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