

# PESTICIDE LABELS

## Introduction

*A pesticide label is*

The marking on the container that tells what is inside,  
But also much more than that:  
Indicates EPA approval of the pesticide for sale and  
use.

*(The Label) provides information about the pesticide*

What it is for, how to use it, how to avoid personal and  
environmental exposure etc.

## Label Contents

*Parts of the label*

*[Examine some of the labels in this Workbook]*

The name under which this product is sold

*Usually copyrighted*

**Common name**

The 'shorthand' version of the chemical name of  
the active ingredient

**Chemical Name**

Full descriptive name

*An organic chemist can reconstruct the entire  
structural formula from this*

Named according to international rules

**Use Classification**

Restricted or general use

*General use – anyone*

*Restricted use – sale & use limited to specially  
trained and licensed persons*

**Type of Pesticide**

Herbicide, insecticide, nematicide, fungicide, etc.

**Type of Formulation**

WP, EC, FL, Etc.

Sometimes this is not given explicitly

**Ingredients**

Active

*Killing agent*

Inert

*Filler, carrier etc.*

Formulation ingredients

*Can be clays, emulsifiers, water, dyes, stabilizers, etc.*

## **Contents**

**Quantity**

## **Signal words and symbols**

**Caution**

*Slightly toxic*

*Toxic if 1oz. is taken orally*

*Slightly toxic by contact or irritates the eyes*

**Warning**

*Moderately toxic*

*Toxic if >1 tsp taken orally*

**Danger-Poison (+ Skull & cross bones in red)**

*Highly toxic*

*Toxic if a taste taken orally*

**DANGER**

*Dangerous for reasons other than toxicity alone*

*e.g. Flammable*

## **Precautionary Statements**

**Indicate the means by which the product may cause problems (dermal, oral, inhalation, etc)**

**Tells what precautions must be taken to avoid exposure:**

*Protective clothing and equipment [more on this later]*

**Statement of practical treatment**

*First aid*

*Physicians' instructions*

## **Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals**

### **Environmental Hazards**

### **Physical or chemical hazards**

## **Directions for Use**

**General Directions**

*“It is a Violation of Federal Law to Use This Material in a Manner Inconsistent with Its Labeling”*

**EXCEPT IF**

Used at less than label rate

Used against a non-listed target pest but if crop and situation are correct

Any appropriate application method not prohibited by labeling  
Mixing with fertilizer unless prohibited by labeling  
Mixing 2 or more pesticides if each rate is within label limits

### ***Tank Mixtures***

**What other pesticides can be safely mixed with the material**

Without a reduction in efficacy of either product (chemical incompatibility)  
Physical incompatibility (e.g. 'turning to sludge')

### ***Restrictions***

**Maximum amount -- that can be applied in a season or year**

**Rotational crop restrictions – some herbicides last in the soil and are toxic to subsequent crops for a period of time**

Some as long as 18 months

### ***Spray drift precautions***

**Application equipment recommended or prohibited to avoid drift**

## **Directions for use on specific crops (or areas)**

***Which plants (crops)***

***Which pests are controlled***

Note different rates for different pests or pest growth stages

Herbicides often list different rates for different application timings (PPI, PRE, POST, Etc.)

***Rate (as amount per acre or 1000 sq.ft.)***

## **Equipment**

***Recommended or prohibited***

e.g. Ground equipment only

e.g. Low Pressure systems only

e.g. No app'n through irrigation systems

***Spray volume***

Min. or Max. GPA

## **Mixing directions**

***Are there special procedures?***

e.g. make a slurry before final mixing

***Order of adding chemicals in a tank mix***

## **Where and when to be applied**

***Special conditions:***

e.g. Low wind

e.g. Avoid high temps

e.g. Avoid times of day when bees are active

## **Storage and Disposal**

**Special storage conditions**

**Cautions during storage and disposal**

**Disposal**

*Instructions for disposal of waste*

(Spray mixed but not used)

**If possible use in a manner consistent with its labeling, or**

“Contact state Pesticide or  
Environmental Control Agency”

**Container disposal**

Often triple rinse, etc

Special containers

*Small returnable containers*

*Bulk shipping and use*

*containers*

*“Lock -n-Load”*