

Pesticide Use In Greenhouses

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a pesticide?

- A pesticide is any product, *organic or manmade*, that is used for control of pests such as insects, diseases or weeds; as a disinfectant on items like pots and benches; or as a growth regulator for certain plants.
- Any product with an EPA Registration Number on the label is a pesticide. For example: EPA Reg. No. 123-456.
- A small number of “Minimum Risk Pesticides” are exempt from registration and do not have an EPA number, but are still subject to all regulations.

Do I need a pesticide license?

- A pesticide applicator license allows you to use Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP’s) in your greenhouse. The educational process involved in obtaining one also teaches you how to use the least amount of pesticides, and how to use them safely. A license keeps you in touch with the Board of

Pesticides Control (BPC) concerning changes in pesticide uses, laws and enforcement.

- Federal RUP’s will say “Restricted Use Pesticide” on the label. State RUP’s (such as daminozide, or B-Nine) should be identified at purchase.
- You must comply with all State and Federal pesticide regulations if you are licensed or unlicensed.

What pesticides can I use in my greenhouse?

- Pesticides used in a commercial greenhouse must have the specific site or crop on the label. For example: “bedding plants” or “ornamentals”.
- Food crops (including food crop seedlings) may only be treated with pesticides that list those food crops.
- Total release aerosols are labeled for a minimum size greenhouse. Be sure to check that your house is large enough.
- Pesticide use is minimized, and is most effective when used as part of an Integrated Pest Management program. Contact the Cooperative Extension Office for help establishing an IPM program, and for specific pesticide recommendations.

Tell me about the label.

- The label is the law and must be followed exactly.
- You must use a pesticide only on sites specified on the label; only at or below application rates stated on the label; and only when taking all safety precautions stated on the label.

What about safety for myself and my employees?

- Greenhouses are covered by the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), a wide-ranging set of protections for agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. All greenhouse owners and employees must comply with these standards when using WPS labeled pesticides. Contact BPC for compliance assistance.
- Applicators must wear all Personal Protective Equipment specified on the label, even when using non-WPS pesticides. This might include gloves, a respirator, eye protection, etc.
- Federal law does not allow users to accept the personal risk of applying pesticides without wearing all the label-specified PPE and following all the label precautions.

Can I apply pesticides through irrigation or with a hose?

- Only pesticides labeled with “Application Through Irrigation Systems” may be applied this way.
- Application through an irrigation system, through a Dosatron/Dosmatic type system or through a hose requires special safety equipment on the system. Follow label requirements, or contact BPC for compliance assistance.

Do I need to keep records?

- Detailed records must be kept for each pesticide application.
- These records must be maintained for 2 years, and must be available for review by BPC. No annual report is required.

For More Information On:

Pesticide education, regulations, enforcement and compliance assistance

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Greenhouse management, crop production and marketing

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