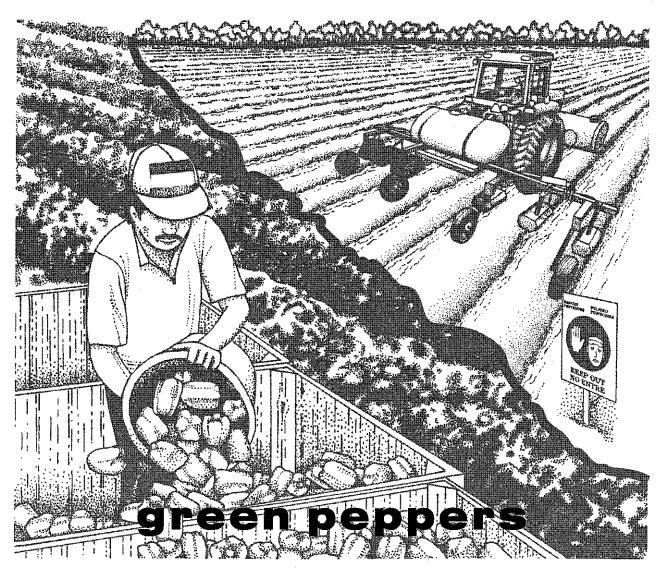
# PESTICIDES 4 Human Health

As an agricultural worker, your health and safety are important. This fact sheet is intended for green pepper workers. It is part of a series focusing on crops that require intensive hand labor.

Throughout the world, pesticides are used to produce food, fiber, and forest products. They are designed to kill specific pests and diseases and to regulate plant growth. However, as an agricultural worker, you may be exposed to pesticide residues through daily crop maintenance and harvest procedures — or to the pesticides themselves during their application or by accident. Such exposure may be harmful to your health.



#### How Can Pesticides Enter Your Body?

Pesticides are used in various forms: powders, liquids, pellets, granules, sprays, and gases (fumigants). Once pesticides are applied, residues may be found in soils, on plants, on harvested products, on application equipment, in water and irrigation canals, in pesticide storage areas, and on your clothes. Pesticides can enter your body in three ways:

By **swallowing** the chemical. You can ingest pesticide residues if you do not wash your hands before you eat, smoke, chew gum, or chew tobacco.

By **breathing** pesticide dust or fumes through your nose or mouth.

By **absorbing** the chemical through your skin or eyes. Spills, splashes, and clothing contaminated by pesticide residues are sources of exposure. Failing to wash your hands before you use the restroom increases your risk of exposure; so do open cuts or inadequate protective clothing and equipment.

# Short-Term Poisoning Symptoms

One or more of these symptoms may indicate that you are experiencing pesticide poisoning.

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- chest pain, coughing
- difficulty breathing
- 4 excessive sweating
- 6 headache
- 6 eye, skin, throat irritation
- itching, skin rash
- 8 blurred vision
- small pupils
- stomach/muscle cramps
- drooling (mouth or nose)
- weakness, dizziness
- jumpiness, edginess

# Potential Long-Term Health Effects

Even if you have not experienced symptoms of shortterm pesticide poisoning, long-term exposure (months or years) to even small amounts of **some** pesticides **may** cause any of the following health conditions:

- allergies
- skin damage and irritation
- nervous system damage
- Cancer
- **6** birth defects
- for reproductive problems (sterility or miscarriage)

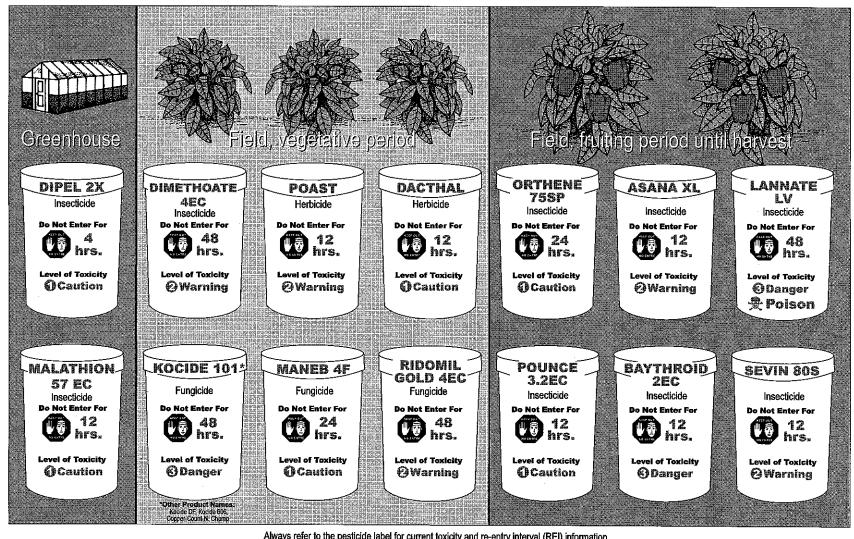


#### First Aid Tips

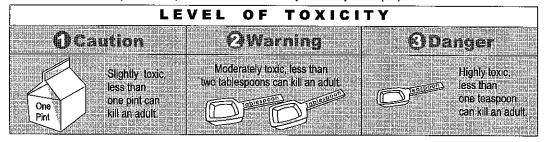
If you have pesticide poisoning symptoms, immediately:

- Leave the site of exposure. Wash all exposed areas with soap and plenty of water; change your clothes.
- Tell your employer; if you cannot do so, ask someone to do it for you.
- Call 911 or other emergency medical personnel. Go to the nearest doctor, hospital, or migrant health clinic. Get help; do not drive yourself.
- Follow the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label. If you do not have the label or do not understand it, ask someone to get it or explain it to you.
- f you get pesticides in your eyes, rinse them with clean water for 15 minutes.
- 6 If you inhale fumes, get to fresh air or an uncontaminated area; sit down, remain calm, and breathe as normally as possible.
- If you swallow pesticides, refer to the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label.
- Tell the doctor that you have been exposed to pesticides; provide the pesticide name and label.

# Names and Application Times of the Most Common Green Pepper Pesticides



Always refer to the pesticide label for current toxicity and re-entry interval (REI) information.



# Health and Safety Tips

Pesticide residues remain in fields after the pesticides have been applied. Therefore, you should **always**:

- Wear clothing that covers the skin: a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, and shoes. A hat, handkerchief, and gloves are also recommended.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, or smoking; before chewing gum or tobacco; and before using the restroom because there could be pesticide residues on your hands. Do not eat or smoke in treated fields.
- Use a clean cloth to wipe sweat from your brow. Avoid scratching or wiping your face with your hand or shirt sleeve.
- Wash your work clothes before wearing them again. When washing your work clothes, separate them from your family's laundry so that you do not contaminate it.

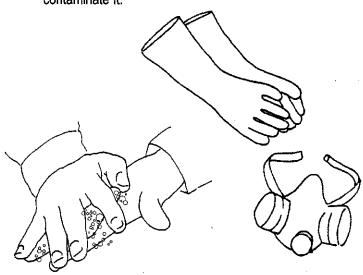
If you are going to mix or apply pesticides or enter a treated field before the reentry period has ended, you should **always**:

- The Know that entry into treated areas before the Restricted Entry Interval (the period of time you must wait before re-entering a treated field) has ended is only allowed for some tasks, as described in the Worker Protection Standard.
- Know the chemical and its associated hazards. Each pesticide has different instructions, toxicity, and precautions (see figure).
- Read and follow the instructions listed on the pesticide label. If you do not understand the label instructions, ask someone to explain them to you.
- Wear the Personal Protective Equipment listed on the pesticide label. This may include clothing that covers your skin, chemical-resistent gloves, and a respirator.



When working with pesticides or in fields in which pesticides have been applied, you should remember:

- Never eat, drink, or smoke in recently treated fields or if you have handled pesticide containers.
- Never re-use empty pesticide containers for any purpose. For example, do not use pesticide containers as water jugs, laundry basins, or trash cans.
- Never drink, bathe, or wash food or clothing in irrigation ditches, which may contain pesticide residues from treated fields.



#### Other Health and Safety Concerns

**Skin diseases**—Farm work is often performed in environmental conditions that may cause skin-related illness or injury. Some may be serious enough to cause lost work time. Injured skin may be more susceptible to chemical or pesticide exposure. Proper clothing and protective equipment such as a wide-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, shoes, and gloves should be used to help protect your skin from the following:

- nexcessive sunlight
- 2 extreme hot or cold weather conditions
- residues from farm chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners, and fuels
- cuts, abrasions, and punctures from plants with hair-like projections, thorns or sharp-edged leaves
- (5) irritations or allergies from contact with natural plant substances such as oils or other compounds (for example, contact with poison ivy)
- 6 biting and stinging insects or other animals

Heat stress—People may become sick with heat stress when they work in extremely hot, humid weather, especially if they are not drinking enough water. Heat stress occurs when your body is overworked and exposed to more heat than it can tolerate. Heat stress is not caused by exposure to pesticides, but the symptoms are similar to those caused by pesticide exposure or green tobacco sickness. The symptoms of heat stress include:

- nausea and vomiting
- weakness and dizziness
- severe thirst and dry mouth
- 4 confusion or slurred speech
- 6 excessive sweating (or lack of sweating)
- headache and chills

Seek medical help. The response of the skin to physical or chemical irritants may be similar. Persistent skin irritations should be treated by a doctor to prevent worsening conditions. Tell the doctor if you have been exposed to pesticides, what crop you have been working in, and how much water you have been drinking so that the doctor can determine the cause of your symptoms and treat you properly.

#### Pesticide Law Protects Workers

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is designed to protect agricultural workers who may be exposed to pesticides. Whenever a pesticide is applied, a grower must:

- Provide basic training about pesticides and pesticide safety before field work begins. If you mix and apply pesticides, you must receive additional training, which includes information on how to follow the pesticide label and what personal protective clothing and equipment are required.
- Post in a central location the name of the pesticide (active ingredient(s) and EPA registration number), the location and description of the treated area, the time and date of the application, the Restricted Entry Interval (REI—the period of time you must wait before re-entering a treated field), and emergency medical information. The following are the *only* conditions under which you can enter a treated field before the REI has ended: when performing certain WPS-approved tasks and when you have had special training and wear special protective clothing and equipment.
- Provide water, soap, and paper towels in the field, or within ¼ mile of the field, so that you can wash your hands or body, if necessary.
- Take you to the doctor, hospital, or migrant health clinic if you become sick because of working with pesticides.
- 6 Not retaliate, fire, or harass you for asking for your legal right to know or for reporting a violation to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or the NC Department of Labor. If you report a violation, you do not have to give your name.



#### **Health Emergencies:**

#### For any type of Emergency, call 911\*

To obtain information about any poison, including pesticides, call the North Carolina Poison Control Center at 1-800-848-6946\* (toll free)

The nearest emergency medical facility (hospital) is:
Name
Street
City
Telephone Number

#### **Questions and Violations:**

The agency responsible for enforcing the Pesticide Law and providing any type of information on pesticides:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pesticide Section . . . . 919-733-3556\*

ne agency responsible for enforcing the laws concerning health and safety conditions in labor camps and in fields:

North Carolina Department of Labor . . . . 1-800-522-6762\* (toll free)

Agricultural Safety and Health Section . . . . 919-733-8731\*

You have any questions on how pesticides may affect your health, call:

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Occupational nd Environmental Epidemiology Section . . . . 919-733-3410\*

\*Spanish is spoken

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Other crop-specific publications in the *Pesticides & Human Health* series include: Christmas Trees, Cucumbers, Sweet Potatoes, Green Peppers, Apples. Contact the NC Cooperative Extension Service Center in your county for copies or for information on pesticide training.



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EXTENSION

Helping People Put Knowledge to Work

Prepared by

W. Gregory Cope, Toxicology Extension Leader Rachel C. Avery, Toxicology Research Assistant Julia F. Storm, Extension Agromedicine Information Specialist Regina C. Luginbuhl, NC Department of Labor Consulting Technical Writer: Tim McBride, Graphic Artist: Greg Miller



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#### Acknowledgments

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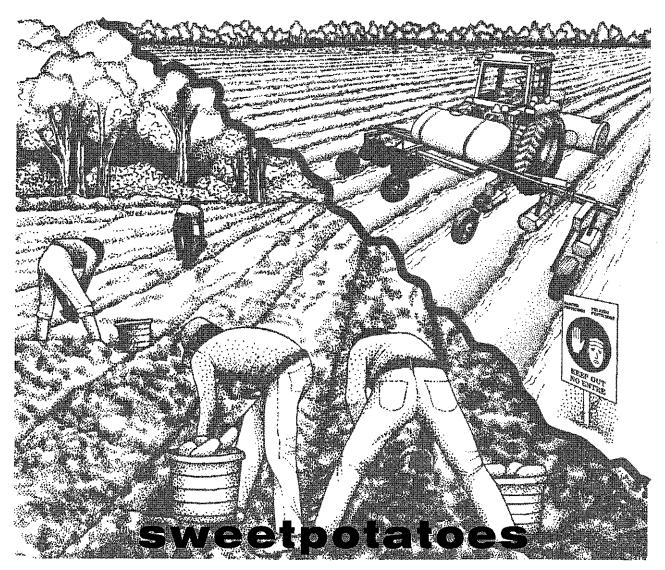
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9/98-4M-TM

# PESTICIDES 4 Human Health

As an agricultural worker, your health and safety are important. This fact sheet is intended for sweetpotato workers. It is part of a series focusing on crops that require intensive hand labor.

Throughout the world, pesticides are used to produce food, fiber, and forest products. They are designed to kill specific pests and diseases and to regulate plant growth. However, as an agricultural worker, you may be exposed to pesticide residues through daily crop maintenance and harvest procedures — or to the pesticides themselves during their application or by accident. Such exposure may be harmful to your health.



#### How Can Pesticides Enter Your Body?

Pesticides are used in various forms: powders, liquids, pellets, granules, sprays, and gases (fumigants). Once pesticides are applied, residues may be found in soils, on plants, on harvested products, on application equipment, in water and irrigation canals, in pesticide storage areas, and on your clothes. Pesticides can enter your body in three ways:

By **swallowing** the chemical. You can ingest pesticide residues if you do not wash your hands before you eat, smoke, chew gum, or chew tobacco.

By **breathing** pesticide dust or fumes through your nose or mouth.

By **absorbing** the chemical through your skin or eyes. Spills, splashes, and clothing contaminated by pesticide residues are sources of exposure. Failing to wash your hands before you use the restroom increases your risk of exposure; so do open cuts or inadequate protective clothing and equipment.

# Short-Term Poisoning Symptoms

One or more of these symptoms may indicate that you are experiencing pesticide poisoning.

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- chest pain, coughing
- difficulty breathing
- excessive sweating
- 6 headache
- 6 eye, skin, throat irritation
- itching, skin rash
- B blurred vision
- small pupils
- stomach/muscle cramps
- drooling (mouth or nose)
- weakness, dizziness
- impiness, edginess

# Potential Long-Term Health Effects

Even if you have not experienced symptoms of shortterm pesticide poisoning, long-term exposure (months or years) to even small amounts of **some** pesticides **may** cause any of the following health conditions:

- allergies
- skin damage and irritation
- nervous system damage
- cancer
- 6 birth defects
- (sterility or miscarriage)

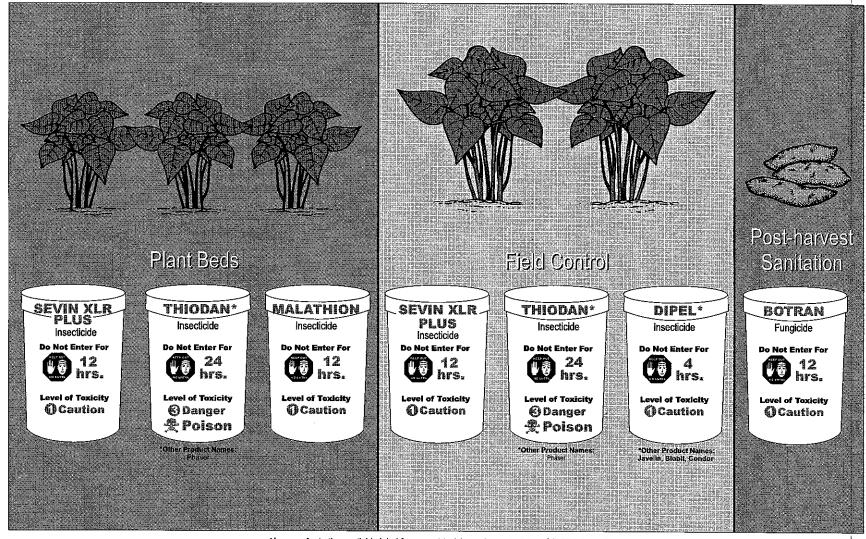


#### First Aid Tips

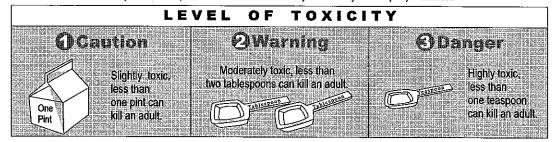
If you have pesticide poisoning symptoms, immediately:

- Leave the site of exposure. Wash all exposed areas with soap and plenty of water; change your clothes.
- Tell your employer; if you cannot do so, ask someone to do it for you.
- Call 911 or other emergency medical personnel.
  Go to the nearest doctor, hospital, or migrant health clinic. Get help; do not drive yourself.
- Follow the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label. If you do not have the label or do not understand it, ask someone to get it or explain it to you.
- If you get pesticides in your eyes, rinse them with clean water for 15 minutes.
- 6 If you inhale fumes, get to fresh air or an uncontaminated area; sit down, remain calm, and breathe as normally as possible.
- If you swallow pesticides, refer to the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label.
- Tell the doctor that you have been exposed to pesticides; provide the pesticide name and label.

# Names and Application Times of the Most Common Sweetpotato Pesticides



Always refer to the pesticide label for current toxicity and re-entry interval (REI) information.



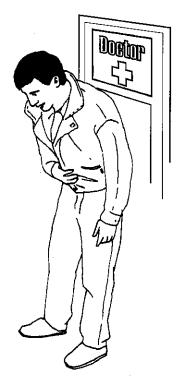
# Health and Safety Tips

Pesticide residues remain in fields after the pesticides have been applied. Therefore, you should **always**:

- Wear clothing that covers the skin: a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, and shoes. A hat, handkerchief, and gloves are also recommended.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, or smoking; before chewing gum or tobacco; and before using the restroom because there could be pesticide residues on your hands. Do not eat or smoke in treated fields.
- Use a clean cloth to wipe sweat from your brow. Avoid scratching or wiping your face with your hand or shirt sleeve.
- Wash your work clothes before wearing them again. When washing your work clothes, separate them from your family's laundry so that you do not contaminate it.

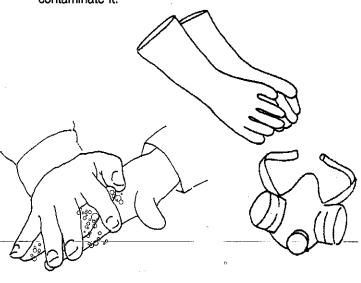
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- Read and follow the instructions listed on the pesticide label. If you do not understand the label instructions, ask someone to explain them to you.
- Wear the Personal Protective Equipment listed on the pesticide label. This may include clothing that covers your skin, chemical-resistant gloves, and a respirator.



When working with pesticides or in fields in which pesticides have been applied, you should remember:

- Never eat, drink, or smoke in recently treated fields or if you have handled pesticide containers.
- Never re-use empty pesticide containers for any purpose. For example, do not use pesticide containers as water jugs, laundry basins, or trash cans.
- Never drink, bathe, or wash food or clothing in irrigation ditches, which may contain pesticide residues from treated fields.



#### Other Health and Safety Concerns

Skin diseases—Farm work is often performed in environmental conditions that may cause skin-related illness or injury. Some may be serious enough to cause lost work time. Injured skin may be more susceptible to chemical or pesticide exposure. Proper clothing and protective equipment such as a wide-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, shoes, and gloves should be used to help protect your skin from the following:

- excessive sunlight
- extreme hot or cold weather conditions
- residues from farm chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners, and fuels
- cuts, abrasions, and punctures from plants with hair-like projections, thorns or sharp-edged leaves
- (5) irritations or allergies from contact with natural plant substances such as oils or other compounds (for example, contact with poison ivy)
- 6 biting and stinging insects or other animals

Heat stress—People may become sick with heat stress when they work in extremely hot, humid weather, especially if they are not drinking enough water. Heat stress occurs when your body is overworked and exposed to more heat than it can tolerate. Heat stress is not caused by exposure to pesticides, but the symptoms are similar to those caused by pesticide exposure. The symptoms of heat stress include:

nausea and vomiting

- weakness and dizziness
- severe thirst and dry mouth
- 4 confusion or slurred speech
- excessive sweating (or lack of sweating)
- headache and chills

Seek medical help. The response of the skin to physical or chemical irritants may be similar. Persistent skin irritations should be treated by a doctor to prevent worsening conditions. Tell the doctor if you have been exposed to pesticides, what crop you have been working in, and how much water you have been drinking so that the doctor can determine the cause of your symptoms and treat you properly.

#### Pesticide Law Protects Workers

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is designed to protect agricultural workers who may be exposed to pesticides. Whenever a pesticide is applied, a grower must:

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- Post in a central location the name of the pesticide (active ingredient(s) and EPA registration number), the location and description of the treated area, the time and date of the application, the Restricted Entry Interval (REI—the period of time you must wait before re-entering a treated field), and emergency medical information. The following are the *only* conditions under which you can enter a treated field before the REI has ended: when performing certain WPS-approved tasks and when you have had special training and wear special protective clothing and equipment.
- Provide water, soap, and paper towels in the field, or within ¼ mile of the field, so that you can wash your hands or body, if necessary.
- Take you to the doctor, hospital, or migrant health clinic if you become sick because of working with pesticides.
- Not retaliate, fire, or harass you for asking for your legal right to know or for reporting a violation to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or the NC Department of Labor. If you report a violation, you do not have to give your name.



#### **Health Emergencies:**

#### For any type of Emergency, call 911\*

To obtain information about any poison, including pesticides, call the North Carolina Poison Control Center at 1-800-848-6946\* (toll free)

The nearest emergency medical facility (hospital) is:
Name
Street
City
Telephone Number

#### **Questions and Violations:**

- The agency responsible for enforcing the Pesticide Law and providing any type of information on pesticides:

  North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pesticide Section . . . . 919-733-3556
  - The agency responsible for enforcing the laws concerning health and safety conditions in labor camps and in fields:

    North Carolina Department of Labor . . . . 1-800-522-6762\* (toll free)

    Agricultural Safety and Health Section . . . . 919-733-8731\*
    - 3 If you have any questions on how pesticides may affect your health, call: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Section . . . . 919-733-3410\*

\*Spanish is spoken

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Other crop-specific publications in the Pesticides & Human Health series include:
Christmas Trees, Cucumbers, Sweet Potatoes, Green Peppers, Apples.
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Prepared by

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9/98-4M-TM

# PESTICIDES Human Health

As an agricultural worker, your health and safety are important. This fact sheet is intended for tobacco workers. It is part of a series focusing on crops that require intensive hand labor.

Throughout the world, pesticides are used to produce food, fiber, and forest products. They are designed to kill specific pests and diseases and to regulate plant growth. However, as an agricultural worker, you may be exposed to pesticide residues through daily crop maintenance and harvest procedures — or to the pesticides themselves during their application or by accident. Such exposure may be harmful to your health.



#### How Can Pesticides Enter Your Body?

Pesticides are used in various forms: powders, liquids, pellets, granules, sprays, and gases (fumigants). Once pesticides are applied, residues may be found in soils, on plants, on harvested products, on application equipment, in water and irrigation canals, in pesticide storage areas, and on your clothes. Pesticides can enter your body in three ways:

By **swallowing** the chemical. You can ingest pesticide residues if you do not wash your hands before you eat, smoke, chew gum, or chew tobacco.

By **breathing** pesticide dust or fumes through your nose or mouth.

By **absorbing** the chemical through your skin or eyes. Spills, splashes, and clothing contaminated by pesticide residues are sources of exposure. Failing to wash your hands before you use the restroom increases your risk of exposure; so do open cuts or inadequate protective clothing and equipment.

# Short-Term Poisoning Symptoms

One or more of these symptoms may indicate that you are experiencing pesticide poisoning.

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- chest pain, coughing
- difficulty breathing
- excessive sweating
- headache
- eye, skin, throat irritation
- itching, skin rash
- blurred vision
- small pupils
- stomach/muscle cramps
- drooling (mouth or nose)
- weakness, dizziness
- iumpiness, edginess

# Potential Long-Term Health Effects

Even if you have not experienced symptoms of short-term pesticide poisoning, long-term exposure (months or years) to even small amounts of **some** pesticides **may** cause any of the following health conditions:

- allergies
- skin damage and irritation
- nervous system damage
- cancer
- birth defects
- reproductive problems (sterility or miscarriage)

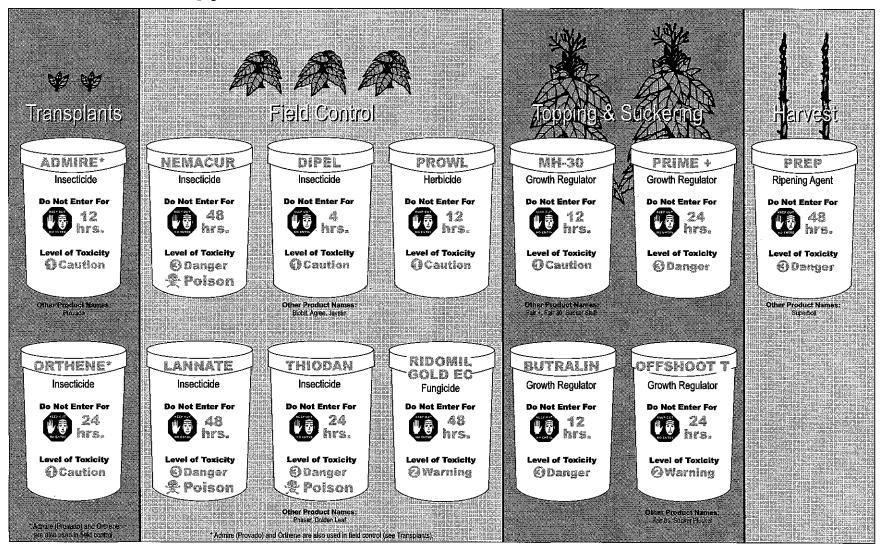


#### First Aid Tips

If you have pesticide poisoning symptoms, **immediately**:

- Wash all exposed areas with soap and plenty of water; change your clothes.
- Tell your employer; if you cannot do so, ask someone to do it for you.
- © Call 911 or other emergency medical personnel.
  Go to the nearest doctor, hospital, or migrant health clinic. Get help; do not drive yourself.
- Follow the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label. If you do not have the label or do not understand it, ask someone to get it or explain it to you.
- If you get pesticides in your eyes, rinse them with clean water for 15 minutes.
- If you inhale fumes, get to fresh air or an uncontaminated area; sit down, remain calm, and breathe as normally as possible.
- If you swallow pesticides, refer to the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label.
- Tell the doctor that you have been exposed to pesticides; provide the pesticide name and label.

### Names and Application Times of the Most Common Tobacco Pesticides



Always refer to the pesticide label for current toxicity and re-entry interval (REI) information.



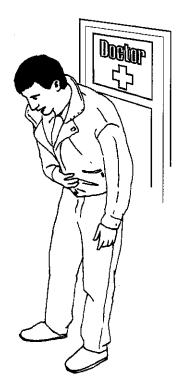
# Health and Safety Tips

Pesticide residues remain in fields after the pesticides have been applied. Therefore, you should **always**:

- Wear clothing that covers the skin: a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, and shoes. A hat, handkerchief, and gloves are also recommended.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, or smoking; before chewing gum or tobacco; and before using the restroom because there could be pesticide residues on your hands. Do not eat or smoke in treated fields.
- Use a clean cloth to wipe sweat from your brow. Avoid scratching or wiping your face with your hand or shirt sleeve.
- Wash your work clothes before wearing them again. When washing your work clothes, separate them from your family's laundry so that you do not contaminate it.

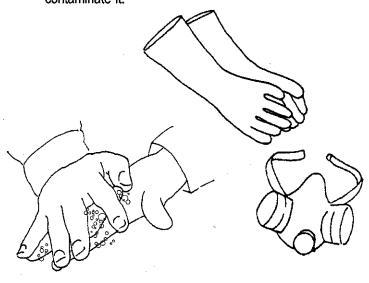
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When working with pesticides or in fields in which pesticides have been applied, you should remember:

- Never eat, drink, or smoke in recently treated fields or if you have handled pesticide containers.
- Never re-use empty pesticide containers for any purpose. For example, do not use pesticide containers as water jugs, laundry basins, or trash cans.
- Never drink, bathe, or wash food or clothing in irrigation ditches, which may contain pesticide residues from treated fields.



# Conditions Confused With Pesticide Poisoning

**Green tobacco sickness**—Some people working with tobacco become sick when the nicotine from wet tobacco leaves is absorbed directly into their skin. Symptoms of green tobacco sickness are similar to those caused by heat stress or exposure to pesticides and can include:

- nausea and vomiting
- weakness and dizziness
- stomach cramps
- difficulty breathing
- paleness and excessive sweating
- headache

Symptoms of green tobacco sickness can start 1 to 2 hours after beginning work and can last for 12 to 24 hours.

Heat stress—People may become sick with heat stress when they work in extremely hot, humid weather, especially if they are not drinking enough water. Heat stress occurs when your body is overworked and exposed to more heat than it can tolerate. Heat stress is not caused by exposure to pesticides, but the symptoms are similar to those caused by pesticide exposure or green tobacco sickness. The symptoms of heat stress include:

- nausea and vomiting
- weakness and dizziness
- severe thirst and dry mouth
- a confusion or slurred speech
- excessive sweating (or lack of sweating)
- headache and chills

Seek medical help. Green tobacco sickness, heat stress, and pesticide poisoning can be hard to tell apart because the symptoms are very similar. Tell the doctor if you have been exposed to pesticides, what crop you have been working in, and how much water you have been drinking so that the doctor can determine the cause of your symptoms and treat you properly.

#### Pesticide Law Protects Workers

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is designed to protect agricultural workers who may be exposed to pesticides. Whenever a pesticide is applied, a grower must:

- Provide basic training about pesticides and pesticide safety before field work begins. If you mix and apply pesticides, you must receive additional training, which includes information on how to follow the pesticide label and what personal protective clothing and equipment are required.
- Post in a central location the name of the pesticide (active ingredient(s) and EPA registration number), the location and description of the treated area, the time and date of the application, the Restricted Entry Interval (REI—the period of time you must wait before re-entering a treated field), and emergency medical information. The following are the *only* conditions under which you can enter a treated field before the REI has ended: when performing certain WPS-approved tasks and when you have had special training and wear special protective clothing and equipment.
- Provide water, soap, and paper towels in the field, or within ¼ mile of the field, so that you can wash your hands or body, if necessary.
- Take you to the doctor, hospital, or migrant health clinic if you become sick because of working with pesticides.
- Not retaliate, fire, or harass you for asking for your legal right to know or for reporting a violation to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or the NC Department of Labor. If you report a violation, you do not have to give your name.



#### Health Emergencies:

#### For any type of Emergency, call 911\*

To obtain information about any poison, including pesticides, call the North Carolina Poison Control Center at 1-800-848-6946\* (toll free)

The nearest emergency medical facility (hospital) is:	
Name	
Street	
City	
Telephone Number	

#### Questions and Violations:

- The agency responsible for enforcing the Pesticide Law and providing any type of information on pesticides:

  North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pesticide Section . . . . 919-733-3556 \*
  - The agency responsible for enforcing the laws concerning health and safety conditions in labor camps and in fields:

    North Carolina Department of Labor . . . . 1-800-522-6762\* (toll free)

    Agricultural Safety and Health Section . . . . 919-733-8731\*
    - What the same of the strict of

\*Spanish is spoken

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Other crop-specific publications in the *Pesticides & Human Health* series include: Christmas Trees, Cucumbers, Sweet Potatoes, Green Peppers, Apples.

Contact the NC Cooperative Extension Service Center in your county for copies or for information on pesticide training.



Prepared by
W. Gregory Cope, Toxicology Extension Leader
Rachel C. Avery, Toxicology Research Assistant
Julia F. Storm, Extension Agromedicine Information Specialist
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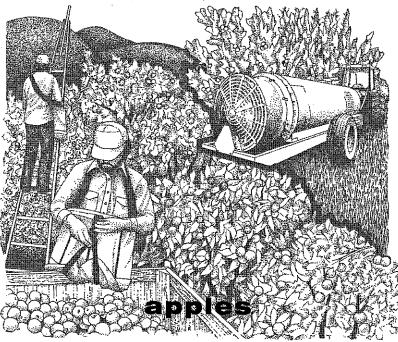
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# PESTICIDES & Human Health

As an agricultural worker, your health and safety are important. This fact sheet is intended for apple workers. It is part of a series focusing on crops that require intensive hand labor.

Throughout the world, pesticides are used to produce food, fiber, and forest products. They are designed to kill specific pests, cure diseases, and to regulate plant growth. However, as an agricultural worker, you may be exposed to pesticide residues through daily crop maintenance and harvest procedures—or to the pesticides themselves during their application or by accident. Such exposure may be harmful to your health.



#### How Can Pesticides Enter Your Body?

Pesticides are used in various forms: powders, liquids, pellets, granules, sprays, and gases (fumigants). Once pesticides are applied, residues may be found in soils, on plants, on harvested products, on application equipment, in water and irrigation canals, in pesticide storage areas, and on your clothes. Pesticides can enter your body in three ways:

By swallowing the chemical. You can ingest pesticide residues if you do not wash your hands before you eat, smoke, chew gurn, or chew tobacco.

By breathing pesticide dust or furnes through your nose or mouth.

By absorbing the chemical through your skin or eyes. Spills, splashes, and clothing contaminated by pesticide residues are sources of exposure. Failing to wash your hands before you use the restroom increases your risk of exposure; so do open cuts or inadequate protective clothing and equipment.

#### Short-Term Poisoning Symptoms

One or more of these symptoms may indicate that you are experiencing pesticide poisoning.

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- chest pain, coughing difficulty breathing
- excessive sweating
- 6 headache 6 eve, skin, throat
- irritation
- 🍘 itching, skin rash
- 8 blurred vision small pupils
- stomach/muscle
- draoling (mouth or nose)
- weakness, dizziness
- iumpiness, edginess

#### Potential Long-Term Health Effects

Even if you have not experienced symptoms of shortterm pesticide poisoning, long-term exposure (months or years) to even small amounts of some pesticides may cause any of the following health conditions:

- allergies
- skin damage and irritation
   nervous system damage
- nervous system damage
   cancer
- 6 birth defects
- reproductive problems (sterifity or miscarriage)

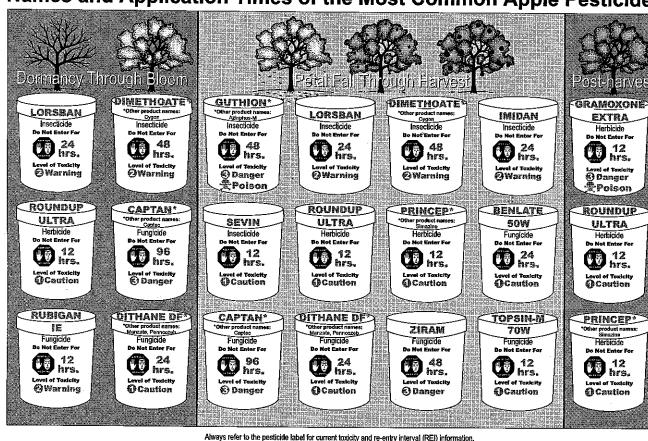


#### First Aid Tips

If you have pesticide poisoning symptoms, immediately:

- Leave the site of exposure. Wash all exposed areas with soap and plenty of water; change your clothes.
- Tell your employer; if you cannot do so, ask someone to do it for you.
- Call 911 or other emergency medical personnel. Go to the nearest doctor, hospital, or migrant health clinic. Get help; do not drive yourself.
- Follow the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label. If you do not have the label or do not understand it, ask someone to get it or explain it to you.
- 6 If you get pesticides in your eyes, rinse them with clean water for 15 minutes.
- If you inhale fumes, get to fresh air or an uncontaminated area; sit down, remain calm, and breathe as normally as possible.
- If you swallow pesticides, follow the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label.
- 3 Tell the doctor that you have been exposed to pesticides; provide the pesticide name and label.

# Names and Application Times of the Most Common Apple Pesticides



#### Health and Safety Tips

Pesticide residues remain in fields after the pesticides have been applied. Therefore, you should always:

- Wear clothing that covers the skin: a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, and shoes. A hat, handkerchief, and gloves are also recommended.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, or smoking: before chewing gum or tobacco; and before using the restroom because there could be pesticide residues on your hands. Do not eat or smoke in treated fields
- Use a clean cloth to wipe sweat from your brow. Avoid scratching or wiping your face with your hand or shirt sleeve.
- Wash your work clothes before wearing them again. When washing your work clothes, separate them from your family's laundry so that you do not contaminate it.

If you are going to mix or apply pesticides or enter a treated field before the re-entry period has ended, you should always:

- Know that entry into treated areas before the Restricted Entry Interval (the period of time you must wait before re-entering a treated field) has ended is only allowed for some tasks, as described in the Worker Protection Standard.
- Know the chemical and its associated hazards. Each pesticide has different instructions, toxicity, and precautions (see figure).
- Read and follow the instructions on the pesticide label. If you do not understand the label instructions, ask someone to explain them to you.
- Wear the Personal Protective Equipment listed on the pesticide label. This may include clothing that covers your skin, chemical-resistant gloves, and a respirator.

When working with pesticides or in fields in which pesticides

should remember. Rever eat, drink, or smoke in recently treated fields or if you have handled pesti-

have been applied, you

- cide containers. Never re-use empty pesticide containers for any purpose. For example, do not use pesticide containers as water jugs, laundry
- basins, or trash cans. Never drink from, bathe in. or wash food or clothing in irrigation ditches, which may contain pesticide residues from treated fields.



#### Other Health and Safety Concerns

Injury or illness due to environmental exposures— Work in apples is often performed in environmental conditions that may result in physical injury or illness. Some injuries may be serious enough to result in loss of life, limbs, or work time. Always wear proper clothing and use protective equipment to help protect yourself from injuries and illness resulting from the following:

- excessive sunlight
- axtremely hot or cold weather
- nesidues from farm chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners, and fuels
- outs, scrapes, and punctures from trees and branches
- irritations or allergies from contact with natural plant substances such as poison ivy
- 6 biting or stinging insects such as bees, wasps, hornets, and ants or other animals
- meven terrain and stumps or holes left in the ground from previously harvested trees, which may be covered by grass
- hazardous equipment such as tractors, trailers, sprayers, chain saws, pruning equipment, and ladders.

Seek medical help if a serious injury occurs. Immediately call 911 or other emergency medical personnel and your supervisor. Serious injuries caused by machinery should always be treated by a doctor. In accidents involving machinery, turn the equipment off if it is still running. Do not move the victim. Determine whether the victim is breathing and resuscitate, if necessary. Apply a bandage with pressure to stop any bleeding.

Training and prevention-Leave all equipment guards in place and keep them in working order. Workers should:

never operate any equipment until you receive proper training never wear loose-fitting clothing that can be caught in moving parts of machinery

Heat stress--People may become sick with heat stress when they work in extremely hot, humid weather, especially if they are not drinking enough water. Heat stress occurs when your body is overworked and exposed to more heat than it can tolerate. Heat stress is not caused by exposure to pesticides, but the symptoms are similar to those caused by pesticide exposure. The symptoms of heat stress include:

excessive sweating

(or lack of sweating)

- mausea and vomiting
- weakness and dizziness
- confusion or slurred speech

#### Pesticide Law Protects Workers

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is designed to protect agricultural workers who may be exposed to pesticides. Whenever a pesticide is applied, a grower must:

- Provide basic training about pesticides and pesticide safety before field work begins. If you mix and apply pesticides, you must receive additional training, which includes information on how to follow the pesticide label and what personal protective clothing and equipment
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- Provide water, soap, and paper towels in the field, or within 1/4 mile of the field, so that you can wash your hands or body if necessary.
- Take you to the doctor, hospital, or migrant health clinic if you become sick because of working with pesticides.
- Not retaliate, fire, or harass you for asking for your legal right to know or for reporting a violation to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or the N.C. Department of Labor. If you report a violation, you do not have to give your name.



Tell the doctor if you have been exposed to pesticides. what crop you have been working in, and how much water you have been drinking so that the doctor can determine the cause of your symptoms and treat you

#### **Health Emergencies:**

#### For any type of emergency, call 911\*

For information about any poison, including pesticides, call the North Carolina Poison Control Center at 1-800-848-6946\* (toll free)

The nearest emergency medical facility (hospital) is:				
łame	_			
Street	_			
City	_			
Telephone Number	_			

#### Questions and Violations:

 The agency responsible for enforcing the Pesticide Law and providing information on pesticides: North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pesticide Section . . . . 919-733-3556\*

The agency responsible for enforcing the laws concerning health and safety conditions in labor camps and in fields: North Carolina Department of Labor . . . . 1-800-522-6762\* (toll free)

Agricultural Safety and Health Section . . . . 919-733-8731\*

🚯 If you have any questions on how pesticides may affect your health, call: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Section . . . . 919-733-3410\*

\*Spanish is spoken

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Other crop-specific publications in the Pesticides & Human Health series include: Christmas Trees, Cucumbers, Sweet Potatoes, Green Peppers, and Tobacco. Contact the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service center in your county for copies or for information on pesticide training.

Prepared by





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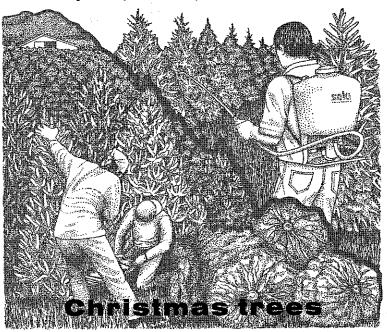
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AG-Med-18

# PESTICIDES 4 Human Health

As an agricultural worker, your health and safety are important. This fact sheet is intended for Christmas tree workers. It is part of a series focusing on crops that require intensive hand labor.

Throughout the world, pesticides are used to produce food, fiber, and forest products. They are designed to kill specific pests, cure diseases, and to regulate plant growth. However, as an agricultural worker, you may be exposed to pesticide residues through daily crop maintenance and harvest procedures-or to the pesticides themselves during their application or by accident. Such exposure may be harmful to your health.



#### How Can Pesticides Enter Your Body?

Pesticides are used in various forms: powders, liquids, pellets, granules, sprays, and gases (fumigants). Once pesticides are applied, residues may be found in soils, on plants, on harvested products, on application equipment, in water and irrigation canals, in pesticide storage areas, and on your clothes. Pesticides can enter your body in three ways:

By swallowing the chemical. You can ingest pesticide residues if you do not wash your hands before you eat, smoke, chew gum, or chew tobacco.

By breathing pesticide dust or fumes through your nose or

By absorbing the chemical through your skin or eyes. Spills, splashes, and clothing contaminated by pesticide residues are sources of exposure. Failing to wash your hands before you use the restroom increases your risk of exposure; so do open cuts or inadequate protective clothing and equipment.

#### Short-Term Poisoning **Symptoms**

One or more of these symptoms may indicate that you are experiencing pesticide poisoning.

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- chest pain, coughing difficulty breathing
- excessive sweating
- headache
- eye, skin, throat irritation
- 🚺 itching, skin rash
- blurred vision
- small pupils stomach/muscle cramps
- drooting (mouth or nose)
- weakness, dizziness
- (B) jumpiness, edginess

#### Potential Long-Term **Health Effects**

Even if you have not experienced symptoms of shortterm pesticide poisoning. iong-term exposure (months or years) to even small amounts of some pesticides may cause any of the following health conditions:

- allergies
- skin damage and irritation
- nervous system damage cancer
- a birth defects
- (i) reproductive problems (sterility or miscarriage)

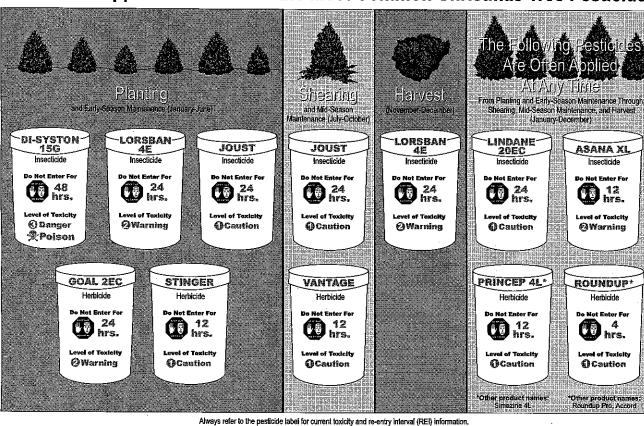


#### First Aid Tips

If you have pesticide poisoning symptoms, immediately:

- Leave the site of exposure. Wash all exposed areas with soap and plenty of water, change your clothes.
- Tell your employer; if you cannot do so, ask someone to do it for you.
- Call 911 or other emergency medical personnel. Go to the nearest doctor. hospital, or migrant health clinic. Get help; do not drive yourself.
- Follow the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label. If you do not have the label or do not understand it, ask someone to get it or explain it to you.
- f you get pesticides in your eyes, rinse them with
- clean water for 15 minutes. (a) If you inhale fumes, get to fresh air or an uncontaminated area; sit down, remain calm, and breathe as normally as possible.
- f you swallow pesticides. follow the first-aid instructions on the pesticide label.
- Tell the doctor that you have been exposed to pesticides; provide the pesticide name and label.

#### Names and Application Times of the Most Common Christmas Tree Pesticides





#### Health and Safety Tips

Pesticide residues remain in fields after the pesticides have been applied. Therefore, you should always:

- Wear clothing that covers the skin: a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, and shoes. A hat, handkerchief, and gloves are also recommended.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, or smoking; before chewing gum or tobacco; and before using the restroom because there could be pesticide residues on your hands. Do not eat or smoke in treated fields.
- 13 Use a clean cloth to wine sweat from your brow. Avoid scratching or wiping your face with your hand or shirt sleeve.
- Wash your work clothes before wearing them again. When washing your work dothes, separate them from your family's laundry so that you do not contaminate it.

If you are going to mix or apply pesticides or enter a treated field before the reentry period has ended, you should always:

- Know that entry into treated areas before the Restricted Entry Interval (the period of time you must wait before re-entering a treated field) has ended is only allowed for some tasks, as described in the Worker Protection Standard.
- Know the chemical and its associated hazards. Each pesticide has different instructions, toxicity, and precautions (see figure).
- Read and follow the instructions on the pesticide label. If you do not understand the label instructions, ask someone to explain them to you.
- Wear the Personal Protective Equipment listed on the pesticide label. This may include clothing that covers your skin, chemical-resistant gloves, and a respirator.



When working with pesticides or in fields in which pesticides have been applied, you should remember:

- Never eat, drink, or smoke in recently treated fields or if you have handled pesticide containers.
- Never re-use empty pesticide containers for any purpose. For example, do not use pesticide containers as water jugs, laundry basins, or trash cans.
- Never drink from, bathe in. or wash food or clothing in irrigation ditches, which may contain pesticide residues from treated fields.

#### Other Health and Safety Concerns

injury or illness due to environmental exposures-Christmas tree work is often performed in environmental conditions that may result in physical injury or illness. Some injuries may be serious enough to result in loss of life, limbs, or work time. Always wear proper clothing and use protective equipment to help protect yourself from injuries and illness resulting from the following:

- excessive sunlight
- extremely hot or cold weather
- residues from farm chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides. cleaners, and fuels
- cuts, scrapes, and punctures from needles and branches
- irritations or allergies from contact with natural plant substances such as resin
- 6 biting or stinging insects such as bees, wasps, homets, and ants or other animals
- where the state of previously harvested trees, which may be covered by grass
- (3) hazardous equipment such as tractors, balers, trailers, con veyors, chain saws, shearing knives, shearing machines, or pruners.

Seek medical help if a serious injury occurs. Immediately call 911 or other emergency medical personnel and your supervisor. Serious injuries caused by machinery should always be treated by a doctor. In accidents involving machinery, turn the equipment off if it is still running. Do not move the victim. Determine whether the victim is breathing and resuscitate, if necessary. Apply a bandage with pressure to stop any bleeding.

Training and prevention-Leave all equipment quards in place and keep them in working order. Workers should:

- never operate any equipment until you receive proper training never work on the same row or adjacent rows of trees when using shearing knives, shearing machines, or long-handled pruners
- onever wear loose-fitting clothing that can be caught in moving parts of machinery

Heat stress-People may become sick with heat stress when they work in extremely hot, humid weather, especially if they are not drinking enough water. Heat stress occurs when your body is overworked and exposed to more heat than it can tolerate. Heat stress is not caused by exposure to pesticides, but the symptoms are similar to those caused by pesticide exposure. The symptoms of heat stress include:

- nausea and vomiting
- weakness and dizziness

- (or lack of sweating) severe thirst and dry mouth headache and chills

6 excessive sweating

@ confusion or slurred speech

#### Pesticide Law Protects Workers

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is designed to protect agricultural workers who may be exposed to pesticides. Whenever a pesticide is applied, a grower must:

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- 6 Not retaliate, fire, or harass you for asking for your legal right to know or for reporting a violation to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or the N.C. Department of Labor. If you report a violation, you do not have to give your name.



Tell the doctor if you have been exposed to pesticides. what crop you have been working in, and how much water you have been drinking so that the doctor can determine the cause of your symptoms and treat you properly.

#### **Health Emergencies:**

#### For any type of emergency, call 911\*

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\*Spanish is sooken

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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### **APPLE INSECTICIDES**

This sheet lists some products used to control insects on apple trees. The health symptoms listed may be caused by things other than pesticides. If you feel sick after exposure to pesticides, contact a doctor or clinic.



Year 2002

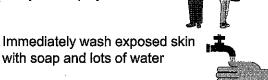
Pesticide (Brand Name) highly toxic	Product Use Changes Read the Label DO NOT ENTER TREATED AREAS FOR: Reentry intervals will vary by product  Common Symptoms of Acute Insecticide Poisoning				\$ 2000 A 3 5 5 6 5 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10		
Azinphosmethyl (Guthion)	2 Days (mimimum contact) 3 Days if less than 25 in. rain 14 Days (thin, harvest)	X	<del>[</del> ]			T 🕏	2
Carbaryl (Sevin)	1/2 Day 12 hours	HEADA	CHES	VIS PROB		STON AC	IACH HE
Chlorpyrifos (Lorsban)	4 Days	$\mathcal{A}$			<b>)</b>	Į.	
Dimethoate (Cygon)	2 Days	VOMI	() FING	BREA PROB		WEAK	NESS.
Endosulfan (Thiodan)	1 Day		<del>G</del>	3		ģ:	
Esfenvalerate (Asana)	1 Day		DIZZI	NESS_	EXCE SWE	N) SSIVE ATING	
Oxamyl (Vydate)	2 Days		NOSE,	FAR	The state of the s	3	
Phosmet (Imidan)	3 Days		OR TH	ROAT ATION	SH IRRIT	KIN ATION	

If you are exposed to a pesticide spray or drift:

Leave the area



Tell your employer



If you get pesticides in your eyes, rinse with clean water for 15 minutes

Change into clean clothes, wash work clothes separately from other clothes



WSDA:

Toll Free 1-877-301-4555

L&I

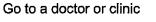
Toll Free 1-800-423-7233

If you feel sick while working with pesticides:

Leave the area



Tell your employer you feel sick



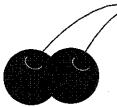


Have someone go with you

Tell doctor the pesticide name. Your employer must provide this information



Emergency Pesticide Information:
WA Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222
Pesticide Related Health Concerns:
DOH (Olympia) 360-236-3360



### **CHERRIES**

This sheet lists some pesticides used on cherries. The health symptoms listed may be caused by things other than pesticides. If you feel sick after exposure to pesticides, contact a doctor or



**Year 2002** 

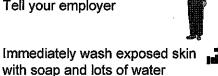
inicol de la companya	用的种类的是由于自然的,可以可以使用的一种,可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以	
Pesticide (Brand Name) highly toxic	Product Use Changes Read the Label DO NOT ENTER TREATED AREAS FOR: Reentry intervals will vary by product	Common Symptoms of Acute Poisoning
Azinphosmethyl (Guthion)	2 Days (mimimum contact) 3 Days if less than 25 in. rain 14 Days (thin, harvest)	HEADACHES STOMACH DIZZINESS VOMTING WEAKNESS PROBLEMS
Carbaryl (Sevin)	1/2 Day 12 hours	HEADACHES STOMACH DIZZINESS WEAKNESS EXCESSIVE SWEATING
Copper Hydroxide (Kocide)	2 Days	NOSE EAR, OR THROAT RRITATION RRITATION
Glyphosate (Roundup)	1/6 Day 4 hours	NOSE EAR OF THROAT IRRITATION REITATION
Myclobutanil (Rally)	1 Day	NOSE EAR OR THROAT IRRITATION IRR
Oryzalin (Surflan)	到是 1 Day	NOSE, EAR, OR THROAT RIVINION BRITATION
Paraquat (Gramoxone Extra)	1 Day	NOSE EAR, OR THROAT IRRITATION IRRITATION IRRITATION PROBLEMS
Petroleum Distillate (Spray Oils)	1/2 Day 12 hours	NOSE EAR, OR THROAT SKIN IRRITATION RICHTATION WEAKNESS PROBLEMS

If you are exposed to a pesticide spray or drift:

Leave the area



Tell your employer



If you get pesticides in your eyes, rinse with clean water for 15 minutes

Change into clean clothes, wash work clothes separately from other clothes



WSDA:

Toll Free 1-877-301-4555

L&I

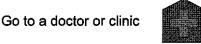
Toll Free 1-800-423-7233

If you feel sick while working with pesticides:

Leave the area



Tell your employer you feel sick



Have someone go with you

Tell doctor the pesticide name. Your employer must provide this information





**Emergency Pesticide Information:** WA Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222 Pesticide Related Health Concerns: DOH (Olympia) 360-236-3360



#### **HOPS**

This sheet lists some pesticides used on hops. The health symptoms listed may be caused by things other than pesticides. If you feel sick after exposure to pesticides, contact a doctor or clinic.



Pesticide (Brand Name) highly toxic		abel 📶 🖹	Common Symptoms of Acute Poisoning
Abamectin (Agri-Mek)	*	1/2 Day / 12 hours	MOSE EAR OR THROAT IRRITATION BREATHING STOMACH PROBLEMS STOMACH ACHE
Bifenthrin (Brigade)	***	1 Day	STOMACH DIZZINESS VOMITING IRRITATION
Endothall (Des-I-Cate)		2 Days	NOSE EAR, OR THROAT IRRITATION IRRITATION IRRITATION WEAKNESS VISION PROBLEMS
Imidacloprid (Provado)	**	1/2 Day / 12 hours	NOSE, EAR, OR THROAT IRRITATION IRRITATION
Metalaxyl / Mefenozam (Ridomil Gold)		2 Days	NOSE EAR OR THROAT IRRITATION IRRITATION
Paraquat (Gramoxone Extra)	**	1 Day	NOSE EAR OR THROAT IRRITATION
Propargite (Omite)	黎	7 Days	NOSE EAR CRITICATION SKIN USION PROBLEMS HEADACHES
Sulfur	***	1 Day	NOSE EAR OR THROAT IRRITATION IRRITATION PROBLEMS

If you are exposed to a pesticide spray or drift:

Leave the area

**EXIT** 

Tell your employer

Immediately wash exposed skin with soap and lots of water

If you get pesticides in your eyes, rinse with clean water for 15 minutes

Change into clean clothes, wash work clothes separately from other clothes



WSDA:

Toll Free 1-877-301-4555

L&I

Toll Free 1-800-423-7233

If you feel sick while working with pesticides:

Leave the area



Tell your employer you feel sick

Go to a doctor or clinic



Have someone go with you

Tell doctor the pesticide name. Your employer must provide this information



Emergency Pesticide Information:
WA Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222
Pesticide Related Health Concerns:
DOH (Olympia) 360-236-3360