Oregon Pesticide Safety Education Manual

A Guide to the Safe Use and Handling of Pesticides

Oregon State University Extension Service
Introduction

This manual is intended to be a resource for persons involved in different aspects of pesticide use, including those who are preparing to take certification exams and those who already are certified pesticide applicators, pesticide operators, dealers, and consultants.

In this edition, we have attempted to use a language that is more “reader friendly”; that is, often less technical, but still technically and legally correct. At the same time, we have attempted to include all technical terms that are common in the industry and which may appear on Oregon State pesticide exams.

Certified users in a specific category may complain that the Manual contains more information than they need. However, we think that a single manual is more convenient and more economical than having two or more manuals. It can serve as a reference for those persons who may want detailed information on pesticide registration, establishment of tolerances, or label comprehension. Nevertheless, additional manuals still may be required for specific uses such as landscape, forestry, rights-of-way, and aerial application.

We have added a short introduction in Chapter 2, which we hope will remove some of the public fear and confusion about “What is a chemical?” and to clarify the terms “poison” and “toxicity.”

At the time of printing, all information in this Manual was up to date. However, the reader must realize that pesticide laws and regulations, labels, and label standards can be modified from time to time. The reader must consult the appropriate state or federal agency if there is any doubt about any issue related to the use of pesticides or other aspects of the pesticide industry.

Remember: the pesticide label is the law. Always read the pesticide label.
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