

What are pesticides?

• Any substance or mixture of substances used for controlling, preventing,

destroying, repelling, or mitigating pests.

• insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, bactericides, repellents, attractants



EXAS A&M

GRILIFE

Pesticide modes of action

- Nervous system poisons
- Metabolic inhibitors
- Hormone mimics
- Physical poisons
- Repellents
- Attractants



Not all pesticides are equally hazardous!







Some terms

- LD₅₀ (Lethal Dose 50) The amount of material needed to kill half of a test population
- Mg/Kg The amount of toxin (in milligrams) per Kilogram of body weight of the test subject (equals parts per million)

EPA Pesticide Toxicity Classes

Toxicity category	Extremely toxic I	Very toxic II	Moderately toxic III	Slightly toxic IV
Signal word	Danger	Warning	Caution	Caution
Oral LD₅₀ (mg/ Kg)	0–50	51–500	501–5,000	> 5,000
Equivalent lethal dose for 150-lb person	< 1 tsp	1 tsp- 1 oz	1 oz–1 pt	1 pt–1 qt or more



Pesticide Safety

TEXAS A&M

GRILIFE

EXTENSION



Acute toxicity

Rapidly produced toxicity, usually resulting from a single exposure

Chronic toxicity

Toxicity due to slow-action or long-term exposure to a poison



TEXAS A&M

GRILIFE

Pesticide Safety



Possible chronic effects:

Carcinogenicity-cancer
 Mutagenicity-genetic mutation
 Teratogenicity-birth defect
 Oncogenicity-tumors
 Reproductive effects
 Delayed neurological effects

TEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION

TEXAS A&M

GRILIFE EXTENSION

Tests required to register a pesticide

- Acute oral toxicity
- Acute dermal toxicity
- Acute inhalation
- Acute intraperitoneal
- Eye irritation



- Dermal photosensitization
- Acute delayed neurotoxicity
- 90-day rat feeding study
- 12-month dog feeding study
- 21 & 90-day dermal
- Lifetime rat feeding study
- Lifetime mouse feeding study
- Teratology (rat)
- Teratology (rabbit)
- Reproduction
- Excretion/metabolism & accumulation
- Antidote
- Mutagenicity



It is impossible to provide experimental evidence that anything is ABSOLUTELY safe!



Pesticide labeling



Pesticide labeling

- Most important source of information
- The label is the Law
- Read the label
 - before you buy/sell the product
 - before you use the product
- before you dispose of the product



Common vs. trade names

- Trade name is a proprietary name used by a company (e.g., Sevin[®])
- Common name is the generic name for the pesticide (e.g., carbaryl)
- Extension publications use common names
- The public looks for trade names : (











Parts of a Label

- Precautionary statement
- Environmental statement
- EPA Registration number
- Directions for use
- Disposal instructions

TEXAS A&M

GRILIFE





Review of Pesticide signal words

- Caution
- LD₅₀ greater than
 500 mg/Kg
- Warning
- LD₅₀ 50-500 mg/Kg
- Danger Poison
 - LD₅₀ less than 50 mg/
 Kg



Classifying insecticides by chemical class

- Organo-phosphates
- Carbamates
- Botanicals
- Pyrethroids
- Neo-nicotinoids
- Others



Organophosphates

- Many formerly common pesticides
- chlorpyrifos (Dursban)
- diazinon
- acephate (Orthene)
- malathion
- Disappearing from market



GRILIFE EXTENSION

Botanicals

- Pesticides derived from plants
 - pyrethrins
 - neem extracts & oils
 - rotenone
 - Mint oils
 - citrus oils
 - clove oil
 - other essential oils



Chrysanthemum cinerariifolium C. coccineum

Pyrethrins



- From ground-up flowerheads of pyrethrum daisies
- A natural combination of six compounds: pyrethrins I and II, jasmolin I and II, and cinerin I and II
- More uses approved than any other insecticide
- Usually includes a "synergist" to keep insects from detoxifying it



Pyrethroids

- Synthetic chemicals based on pyrethrins chemistry
- Broad spectrum replacements for Dursban[®], diazinon
- Low in toxicity to birds and mammals, but hazardous to fish in some settings





GRILIFE

EXTENSION

Pyrethroids

- Recognize by suffixes: -thrin or -ate
- Examples:
- Esfenvalerate
- Permethrin
- Bifenthrin
- Cyfluthrin
- Allethrin
- Sumithrin
- Others



ΓΕΧΑS Α&Μ

GRILIFE EXTENSION

Neonicotinoids

- New class of systemic pesticides
- imidacloprid (Bayer)
- dinotefuran (Spectracide?)
- Effective against
 - Homoptera
- Coleoptera (chewing, boring)
- Thysanoptera
- Relatively low in mammalian, bird toxicity



ΓΕΧΑS Α&Μ

GRILIFE

EXTENSION

<section-header>



Even plants have carcinogens!

- Tobacco (leaf) 7 carcinogens
- Strawberry (fruit) 7 carcinogens
- Onion (bulb) 6 carcinogens
- Tea (leaf) 6 carcinogens
- Carrot (root) 6 chemicals
- Cauliflower (leaf) 5 chemicals
- Grapefruit (fruit) 5 chemicals

Source: Phytochemical Database, USDA - ARS - NGRL http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/activity.html



GRILIFE

EXTENSION

GRILIFE



• Pesticides with minimal impact on people and on beneficial organisms, including beneficial insects



Low impact pesticides

Microbe-derived

• Consisting of, or derived from microbes. The best are low in toxicity to humans and non-pathogenic to non-target organisms.



 Examples: Bacillus thuringiensis products, spinosad

EXAS A&M

GRILIFE extension

GRILIFE

EXTENSION

Low impact pesticides

- Baits
 - Mixture of an insecticide with some sort of food attractive to pest. Generally low percentage active ingredients make these relatively safe.
- Examples: fire ant baits, containerized cockroach baits, granular ant, cockroach and cricket baits



Low impact pesticides

- Botanicals
 - Derived from plants. Although some active ingredients are toxic, generally formulated as a low percentage a.i. and degrade quickly in the environment.
- Examples: pyrethrum, neem extract, essential oils, others...



GRILIFE EXTENSION

EXTENSION

Low impact pesticides

- Insect growth regulators
- Based on insect hormones unique to arthropods
- Disrupts reproduction, molting, other growth processes
- Excellent safety record
- Products for fire ants, white grubs, fleas, others



EXTENSION

Low impact pesticides

- Other low toxicity pesticides
 - Kill through physical or stomach poison action.
 - Generally non-toxic on skin.
 - Examples: silica aerogel, diatomaceous earth, boric acid and borate compounds, sulfur

















