

PROTECT POLLINATORS READ PESTICIDE LABELS

Steps to reading a pesticide label to reduce risk to pollinating insects

READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS



Review the **ENVIRONMENTAL PRECAUTIONS** to determine if the product is toxic to pollinators.

Look for general and crop-specific directions under DIRECTIONS FOR USE and/or USE RESTRICTIONS headings.

Pesticides of potential concern to pollinating insects will be indicated by phrases "TOXIC TO BEES" and/or "TOXIC TO CERTAIN BENEFICIAL ARTHROPODS (WHICH MAY INCLUDE PREDATORY AND PARASITIC INSECTS, SPIDERS, AND MITES)"

If Toxic to bees:

- Avoid spraying when crops or weeds in the treatment area are in bloom.
- If the label allows bloom timing applications, avoid spraying when bees are foraging and apply in the evening when most bees are not foraging.

If Toxic to beneficial arthropods:

 Minimize spray drift to reduce harmful effects on beneficial arthropods in habitats next to the application site such as hedgerows and woodland.

GENERAL AND CROP-SPECIFIC USE DIRECTIONS

General and crop-specific directions are also sometimes found under the DIRECTIONS FOUSE or USE RESTRICTIONS. Some labels have additional pollinator precaution language also provided in the crop-specific directions for use. For example, the label may indicate that the product cannot be applied during bloom for certain crops only. Please check each label to ensure you are aware and adhere to all pollinator precaution language.

INSECTICIDE

Commercial – Agricultural For the Control or Suppression of Labelled Insects on Labelled Crops.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRECAUTIONS

Toxic to bees. Bees may be exposed through direct spray, spray drift, and residues on leaves, pollen and nectar in flowering crops and weeds. Minimize spray drift to reduce harmful effects on bees in habitats close to the application site. Avoid applications when bees are foraging in the treatment area in ground cover containing blooming weeds. To further minimize exposure to pollinators, refer to the complete guidance "Protecting Pollinators during Pesticide Spraying – Best Management Practices" on the Health Canada website (www.canada.ca/pollinators). Follow crop specific directions for application timing.

Toxic to certain beneficial arthropods (which may include predatory and parasitic insects, spiders, and mites). Minimize spray drift to reduce harmful effects on beneficial arthropods in habitats next to the application site such as hedgerows and woodland.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE:

To protect pollinators, follow the instructions regarding bees in the Environmental Precautions section.

For applications on crops that are highly attractive to pollinators or when using managed bees for pollination services: Do not apply during the crop blooming period.

For applications on all other crops: Avoid application during the crop blooming period. If applications must be made during the crop blooming period, restrict applications to evening when most bees are not foraging.

www.canada.ca/pollinators

To further minimize exposure to pollinators, refer to the complete guidance "Protecting Pollinators during Pesticide Spraying – Best Management Practices" on the Health Canada website.



MINIMIZING PESTICIDE EXPOSURE TO POLLINATING INSECTS

Understanding and following pesticide label information is an important first step to protecting pollinating insects. Insecticides and some fungicides can be a concern for pollinating insects. Here are a few actions to help minimize pesticide exposure to pollinating insects while managing pests and diseases.

- **Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** Utilize IPM resources from your provincial Ministry of Agriculture website to support sustainable pest control.
- 2 **Communicate with beekeepers:** Coordinate with local beekeepers regarding hive locations, pesticide types, spray timing, and potential drift. This allows beekeepers to take protective measures for their colonies.
- 3 Time applications wisely: Avoid spraying when crops or weeds in the treatment area are in bloom or when pollinating insects are actively foraging. Spraying during the day when bees are foraging can be the most hazardous.
- 4 Monitor weather conditions: Check forecast and be mindful of changing conditions. If required, reschedule applications as required based on weather restrictions on label. Avoid spraying during temperature inversions.
 - Use drift-reducing equipment and techniques to minimize spray drift to non-target areas. For example:
 - Select drift-reducing technology and low-drift nozzles
 - Apply spray at lower pressures

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- For aerial applications, ensure maximum boom length is 65% of wingspan and choose appropriate nozzles
- For more information to manage exposure from drift please visit Health Canada's Drift Mitigation guidance.
- **6** Implement pollinator-friendly practices: Where pollinators may forage, avoid contaminating plants, water, and soil used by pollinators. Provide and protect existing pollinator-friendly habitats away from crops.
- Report suspected pollinator pesticide poisonings: Contact Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency at 1-800-267-6315 or the appropriate provincial authority. Find provincial contacts at www.canada.ca/pollinators.

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) is a growing collaborative body of more than 170 diverse partners, including respected scientists, researchers, conservationists, government officials and dedicated volunteers.

CropLife Canada is a national trade association representing the manufacturers, developers and distributors of pesticides and plant breeding innovations.

Pollinator Partnership Canada (P2C) is a registered charity with a mission to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research.



Health Canada Protecting Pollinators