

Pesticides Commonly Used on Tobacco

A Fact Sheet from Toxic Free NC

A large number of pesticides are sprayed on tobacco, a crop grown throughout North Carolina. Tobacco is traditionally one of the largest crops grown in the state, contributing significantly to the state economy. Tobacco is also a chemical-intensive crop, because it requires so many applications of insect-killers, weed-killers, plant growth regulators as well as other types of pesticides. Some of these chemicals are applied to tobacco from airplanes (“aerial application”), which can increase the risk of contaminating neighboring areas with substances that may be toxic. If you live near a tobacco-growing area, you may be exposed to these chemicals through drift or runoff. More information about the chemical names highlighted in bold can be found below. Chemicals that may be applied aerially in North Carolina are followed by this symbol: ✦ You can find more information about these pesticides, including effects on human health and the environment, from the sources listed on the back side of this sheet.



Many different pesticides are applied to tobacco.

Season	Chemical Name	Brand Names	Chemical Class	Uses	Information
Early spring	Imidacloprid	Admire, Advantage, Gaucho, Imicide, Marathon, Merit, Premier, Premise, Provado	Chloronicotinyl nitroguanidine	Insect control on young plants ✦	2, 3, 4, 5
Spring and/or fall	Acephate	Orthene	Organophosphate	Insect control on young plants ✦	1, 4, 5
Spring	Fenimiphos	Nemacur	Organophosphate	Insecticide ✦	1, 4, 7
Spring	Methomyl	Lannate	Carbamate	Insecticide ✦	1, 4, 7
Late summer/early fall	Bacillus thuringiensis	Agree, Biobit, Dipel, Foray, Javelin, Lepinox, Xen Tari	Biological	Insecticide ✦	1, 2, 4, 5
Spring	Thiodan	Phaser, Golden Leaf, Endosulfan	Chlorinated hydrocarbon	Insecticide ✦	4, 6, 7 (under *endosulfan*)
Spring	Pendimethilum	Prowl	dinitroaniline	Weed-killer ✦	4
Summer	Mefenoxam	Ridomil Gold Ec	Phenylamide fungicide	Fungicide ✦	1, 4
July	Maleic hydrazide	Fair 30, MH-30, Sucker Stuff, Retard, Fair Plus	Pyridazonone fungicide	Growth Regulator ✦	1, 4, 7
July	Butralin	Sector, Tamex	Strobilurin fungicides	Growth Regulator	1, 4
July	Flumetralin	Prime +	Dinitroaniline	Growth Regulator	4
July	Fatty Alcohols	Fair 85	Unclassified	Growth Regulator	4
Harvest—Aug-Sept	Ethephon	Cotton Quik, Finish, Prep, Super Boll	Ethylene generator	Ripening Agent ✦	4

Where to find more information about pesticide hazards

The following are different sources of information about how pesticides may affect human health and the environment. Internet addresses and contact information are provided for all sources, however we can also provide you with free copies of most of this information. Call toll-free: 1-877-NO SPRAY or email info@PESTed.org to request copies.

1. Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisoning (book) by Reigart & Roberts, 5th edition (1999), U.S. EPA. This is an excellent handbook **for health care providers**. Note that information about pesticides is grouped by chemical class, *not* by the pesticide name or active ingredient. Available free, in Spanish or English, from the US EPA by calling (703) 305-7666, or online at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety/healthcare/handbook/handbook.htm>.
2. Pesticide Fact Sheets (articles) from NCAP, published in the *Journal of Pesticide Reform* (magazine). Available by calling (541) 344-5044 or online at: <http://www.pesticide.org/factsheets.html>. These are in-depth articles about pesticide active ingredients, and they cover environmental as well as health effects. Free on the web; \$4 to \$6 each if sent by mail.
3. Chemical Watch Fact Sheets (articles) from Beyond Pesticides. Available free by calling (202) 543-5450 or online at: <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/pesticides/factsheets/index.htm>. These are two- to three-page articles about pesticide active ingredients that cover both environmental and human health effects.
4. PAN Pesticides Database (website) from Pesticide Action Network. This is a searchable database that provides current toxicity and regulatory information for almost all pesticides. Search by product name or chemical name. Available only on the web: <http://www.pesticideinfo.org>. The PAN database also includes a Pesticide Poisoning Diagnostic Tool designed to help **healthcare providers** recognize, manage and report pesticide-related illnesses. It can help identify a pesticide or class of pesticides that may be responsible for a pesticide-related illness. This resource also provides information for reporting a known or suspected pesticide poisoning: http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Search_Poisoning.jsp.
5. NPIC Fact Sheets (website) from the National Pesticide Information Center (sponsored by Oregon State University and EPA). NPIC's Fact Sheets provide basic information for consumers about various pesticide products, which are listed by active ingredient on the website: <http://npic.orst.edu/npicfact.htm>. The fact sheets are written in simple language and are easy for most people to understand. NPIC also maintains a toll-free telephone service for pesticide information (1-800-858-7378), and lists emergency treatment information for humans and animals.
6. ToxFAQ's (website) from the US Centers for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. These are short summaries of basic health information about many contaminants that are commonly found at hazardous waste sites, including some pesticides. These are written in simple language and are easy for most people to understand; many are also in Spanish. Only available on the website: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html>.
7. Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets (website) from the New Jersey Department of Health. These are summaries of health information about many environmental contaminants, including some pesticides. They are designed for people who are exposed to these chemicals at work, and they are written in simple language and are easy for most people to understand. Available in English and in Spanish on the website: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/rtkweb/rtkhsfs.htm>

For free copies of many of these resources, contact Toxic Free NC toll-free at 1-877-NO SPRAY or by email: info@toxicfreenc.org.

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Fighting pesticide pollution since 1986.
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