

WHAT ARE PESTICIDES?

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for: preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

Though often misunderstood to refer only to insecticides, the term pesticide also applies to herbicides, fungicides, and various other substances used to control pests.

What is a pest?

Pests are living organisms that occur where they are not wanted or that cause damage to crops or humans or other animals. Examples include: insects, mice and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses.

How are pesticides used on the YIR?

The most common uses of pesticides are:

- Household use
- Industrial timber

Do household products contain pesticides?

Many household products are pesticides. All of these common products are pesticides:

- Bug sprays and baits
- Insect repellents for personal use.
- Rat and other rodent poisons.
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars.
- Kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers.
- Products that kill mold and mildew.
- Some lawn and garden products, such as weed killers.
- Some swimming pool chemicals.

What are some alternatives to pesticides?

- Use non-toxic and biodegradable products.
- Clean up food to prevent pests.
- Store food in sealed containers.
- Make your home unattractive to pests by clearing vegetation near your home & fixing leaky faucets. Caulk all holes in exterior walls.

HOW ARE INDUSTRIAL TIMBER HERBICIDES APPLIED?

Most herbicide use occurs in spring & fall. Spring applications are aimed at seedlings and small plants that are just beginning to emerge from the soil (ground and broadcast). Fall herbicide use targets larger plants and those missed in the spring (foliar & hack & squirt applications).

Application techniques are determined by the type of herbicide being used and the kinds of plants being controlled.

Foliar application targets the leaves of individual plants or groups of plants.

Ground & broadcast applications are used over large areas to remove large numbers of plants, prevent plants from sprouting .



This picture is of a madrone tree sprayed with herbicide. (Note the dead and burnt looking leaves next to the healthy leaves)

‘Hack and squirt’ uses slashes cut into the trunk to introduce herbicide directly into the tree’s inner bark.

Typical signs of herbicide use include:

- Wilted, or burnt-looking leaves
- Patches of dead & dying plants near healthy young trees
- Unusual odors, like kerosene & ammonia
- Tree with large slashes cut into the trunk (see right)



What Are The Health Risks?

Pesticides, by their nature, are toxic. Short-term exposure to pesticides can cause irritations to skin, eyes, and the respiratory system. They are also thought to have an association with diseases such as cancer, diabetes, asthma, and reproductive and behavioral problems in people and other animals.

SYMPTOMS COMMONLY RELATED TO HERBICIDE EXPOSURE

Headache
Dizziness
Itchy, burning eyes
Sore Throat
Red, itchy rash
Tingling skin
Swelling
Difficulty breathing
Nausea, vomiting
Abdominal pain
Diarrhea

MANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS CAN MIMIC THE FLU

FIRST AID FOR HERBICIDE EXPOSURE

- Use gloves to remove clothing & wash skin
- Wash contaminated items separately
- Avoid inhaling dust from contaminated items
- Clean where contaminated shoes have been
- Wash thoroughly with soap & water for at least 15 minutes
- If symptoms persist, contact your doctor and explain what, where & when you have been.

Reduce herbicide exposure by:

- referring to YTEP’s posted spray maps
- contact YTEP’s pesticide staff person
- Look for signs of herbicide application
- Clean gathered items well before using.
- Report any possible health effects to YTEP.

IMPACTS ON YUROK CULTURE

Many Yurok people continue to gather traditional foods and resources. Green Diamond owns much of the lands within the Yurok Indian Reservation. The plants that Green Diamond considers undesirable and applies pesticides to are the same plants, trees and grasses that the Yurok People have used for thousands of years. Some of the sprayed plants include; Tan Oak trees which provide acorns, pacific huckleberry, numerous basket materials including hazel, ferns, alders and numerous others. Federal regulation of Triclopyr which is a foliar herbicide used for agricultural timber, doesn't consider use on food plants.



What is YTEP doing about pesticides?

- Consultation– consults with GDR on planned pesticide applications. Has worked with the U.S. Forest Service, Cal-Trans, Redwood National Park, and PacifiCorp which has resulted in all of the above organizations stopping or severely limiting pesticide use on the YIR.
- Notification– shares and posts planned pesticide spraying information with the public.
- Database/GIS-inventories all pesticide spraying units on the YIR with computer mapping.

Some info used for this brochure from:

California Indian Basketweavers Association (CIBA)
www.ciba.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Citizens Guide to Pest Control & Pesticide Safety
EPA-730-K-95-001 Sept. 1995

Where to get more information

Yurok Tribe Environmental Program:

(707) 482-1822 x 1013

for information on herbicide applications on or near the Yurok Indian Reservation.

Humboldt Agricultural Commissioner:

(707) 445-7223

information on what has been used in Humboldt County (2 weeks post application)

Del Norte Agricultural Commissioner:

(707) 464-7235

information on what has been used in Del Norte County (2 weeks post application)

Californians for Alternatives to Toxics:

(707) 445-5100

Information on pesticides and alternatives
<http://www.alternatives2toxics.org/>

Pesticide Action Network North America

Information on pesticides and alternatives
<http://www.panna.org>

California Department of Pesticide Regulation:

(916) 445-4300

California-specific regulations governing pesticide application and more

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>

Californians for Pesticide Reform:

Information on pesticides & alternatives.

<http://www.pesticidereform.org/>

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

(800) 858-7378 M-F 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM

California Poison Action Line

(800) 222-1222 24/7 365 days per year

Pesticides On the Yurok Indian Reservation



WHAT TRIBAL MEMBERS NEED TO
KNOW TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH
AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Yurok Tribe Environmental Program-YTEP

(707) 482-1822

P.O. Box 1027 Klamath, CA. 95548

www.yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep



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