

Glossary

Absorption: The process by which a chemical is taken into plants, animals or minerals. Compare with adsorption.

Adherence: Sticking to a surface.

Adsorption: The process by which chemicals are held on the surface of a mineral or soil particle. Compare with absorption.

Adulterated: Any pesticide whose strength or purity falls below the quality stated on its label. Also, a food, feed or product that contains illegal pesticide residues.

Aerosol: An extremely fine mist or fog consisting of solid or liquid particles suspended in air. Also, certain formulations used to produce a fine mist or smoke.

Aggregation Pheromone: Chemical substances released to attract members of the same species. The most commonly used is the confused flour beetle pheromone.

Agitation: The process of stirring or mixing in a sprayer.

Anaerobic: Living in the absence of air. The opposite of aerobic.

Animal Sign: The evidences of an animal's presence in an area.

Aqueous: A term used to indicate the presence of water in a solution.

Bait Shyness: The tendency for rodents, birds or other pests to avoid a poisoned bait.

Broadcast: Uniform application to an entire, specific area.

Carcinogenic: Can cause cancer.

Concentration: The amount of active ingredient in a given volume or weight of formulation.

Contaminate: To make impure or to pollute.

Complete Metamorphosis: Development where there are four life stages (egg, larva, pupa and adult). The immatures and adults, besides having different appearances, have different habitats and food preferences.

Corrosion: The process of wearing away by chemical means.

Crack and Crevice: Application in structures to cracks and crevices where pests may live.

Degradation: The process by which a chemical is reduced to a less complex form.

Dermal: Of the skin; through or by the skin.

Dermal Toxicity: Ability of a chemical to cause injury when absorbed through the skin.

Diluent: Any liquid or solid material used to dilute or carry an active ingredient.

Dilute: To make thinner by adding water, another liquid or a solid.

Directed: Aiming the pesticide at a portion of a plant, animal or structure.

Dose, Dosage: Quantity of a pesticide applied.

Emulsifier: A chemical that aids in suspending one liquid in another.

Emulsion: A mixture in which one liquid is suspended as tiny drops in another liquid, such as oil in water.

Exuvia(e): The cast skin of an arthropod.

Excreta: Insect fecal matter (frass).

Gregarious: Living in groups.

Gradual Metamorphosis: development in which there are three life stages (egg, nymph and adult) and the nymphs resemble the adults, live in the same environment and have similar food preferences.

Harborage: living areas for pests.

Hard (water): Water containing soluble salts of calcium and magnesium and sometimes iron.

Hydrogen-Ion Concentration: A measure of acidity or alkalinity, expressed in terms of the pH of the solution. For example, a pH of 7 is neutral, from 1 to 7 is acid and from 7 to 14 is alkaline.

Immune: Not susceptible to a disease or poison.

Impermeable: Cannot be penetrated. Semi-permeable means that some substances can pass through and others cannot.

Kairomone: chemicals involved in interspecific communication that is adaptively favorable for the receiving organism and not the emitting organism.

LC₅₀: The concentration of an active ingredient in air, which is expected to cause death in 50 percent of the test animals so treated. A means of expressing the toxicity of a compound present in air as dust, mist, gas or vapor. It is generally expressed as micrograms per liter as a dust or mist but, in the case of gas or vapor, as parts per million (ppm).

LD₅₀: The dose of an active ingredient taken by mouth or absorbed by the skin, which is expected to cause death in 50 percent of the test animals so treated. If a chemical has an LD₅₀ of 10 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), it is more toxic than one having an LD₅₀ of 100 mg/kg.

Life Cycle: The chain or sequence of events that occurs during the developmental life-time of an individual organism.

Mammals: Warm-blooded animals that nourish their young with milk. Their skin is more or less covered with hair.

Metamorphosis: Changes that occur during growth or development to the adult stage.

Miscible Liquids: Two or more liquids that can be mixed and will remain mixed under normal conditions.

Mutagenic: Can produce genetic change.

Nocturnal: Performs most activity at night.

Nymph: The immature stage in insects with gradual metamorphosis.

Oral: Of the mouth; through or by the mouth.

Oral Toxicity: Ability of a pesticide to cause injury when taken by mouth.

Organic Compounds: Chemicals that contain carbon.

Organophosphate: A synthetic organic pesticide containing carbon, hydrogen and phosphorus; parathion and malathion are two examples.

Pollutant: An agent or chemical that makes something impure or dirty.

PPB: Parts per billion. A way to express the concentration of chemicals in foods, plants and animals. One part per billion equals 1 pound in 500,000 tons.

PPM: Parts per million. A way to express the concentration of chemicals in foods, plants and animals. One part per million equals 1 pound in 500 tons.

Predator: Any animal that destroys or eats other animals.

Propellant: Liquid in self-pressurized pesticide products that forces the active ingredient from the container.

Sex Pheromone: Chemical substances used to facilitate mate location and mating. Most commonly used is the Indianmeal moth pheromone.

Soil Application: Application to the soil rather than to vegetation.

Soil Sterilant: A chemical that prevents the growth of all plants and animals in the soil. Soil sterilization may be temporary or permanent, depending on the chemical.

Soluble: Will dissolve in a liquid.

Solution: Mixture of one or more substances in another in which all ingredients are completely dissolved.

Solvent: A liquid that will dissolve a substance to form a solution.

Spreader: A chemical that increases the area that a given volume of liquid will cover on a solid or on another liquid.

Spot Treatment: Application to a small area.

Sticker: A material added to a pesticide to increase its adherence.

Surfactant: A chemical that increases the emulsifying, dispersing, spreading and wetting properties of a pesticide product.

Suspension: Finely divided solid particles mixed in a liquid.

Synergism: The joint action of two or more pesticides that is greater than the sum of their activity when used alone.

Target Pest: The pest at which a particular pesticide or other control method is directed.

Tolerance: (1) The ability of a living thing to withstand adverse conditions, such as pest attacks, weather extremes or pesticides. (2) The amount of pesticide that may safely remain in or on raw farm products at time of sale.

Toxicant: A poisonous chemical.

Trade Name: Same as brand name.

Vapor Pressure: The property that causes a chemical to evaporate. The lower the vapor pressure, the more easily it will evaporate.

Vector: A carrier, such as an insect, that transmits a pathogen.

Viscosity: A property of liquids that determines whether they flow readily. Viscosity usually increases when temperature decreases.

Volatile: Evaporates at ordinary temperatures when exposed to air.

Wetting Agent: A chemical that causes a liquid to contact surfaces more thoroughly.

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