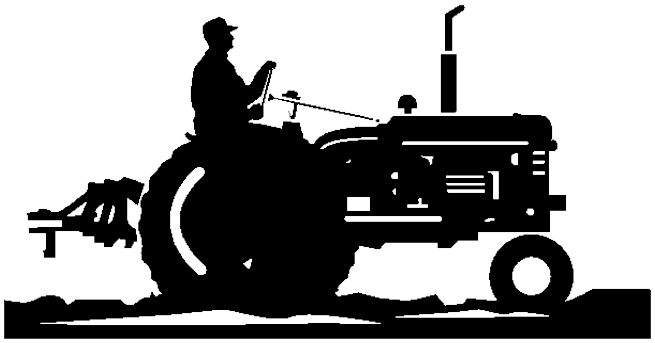
FIELD CROPS NEWSLETTER

April 2017



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REVISIONS TO WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS (WPS)

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) has been a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safety regulation since 1992, designed to protect people working in agriculture from pesticide poisoning and injury. Agricultural workers (those involved in the production of agricultural plants) and handlers (those who mix, load, or apply crop pesticides) will have increased protection due to 2015 revisions, effective January 2017 and January 2018.

In brief, WPS applies whenever a pesticide with a WPS box (Agricultural Use Requirements) on the label is used to produce an agricultural plant on an agricultural establishment such as a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse. Owners and employers (managers) of agricultural establishments must provide annual pesticide safety training to workers and handlers.

Certified pesticide applicators, certified crop advisors, and immediate family members of the owner are exempt from this safety training. The definition of immediate family members is quite broad, to include the agricultural owner's spouse, parents, stepparents, foster parents, father-in-law, mother-in-law, children, stepchildren, foster children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and first cousins.

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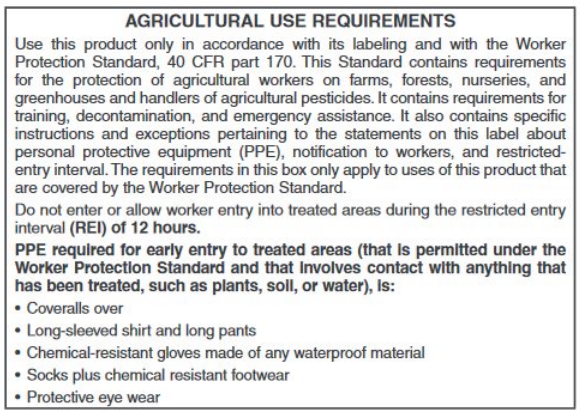
WPS REQUIREMENTS

WPS requires that pesticide handlers and early-entry workers must have access to pesticide labeling information. Early-entry workers are those who enter a treated area before the restricted entry interval (REI) listed on the pesticide label has passed. The labeling information includes the pesticide product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS).



AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170. This Standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment (PPE), notification to workers, and restricted-entry interval. The requirements in this box only apply to uses of this product that are covered by the Worker Protection Standard.

Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval **(REI) of 12 hours.**

PPE required for early entry to treated areas (that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil, or water), is:

- Coveralls over
- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants
- Chemical-resistant gloves made of any waterproof material
- Socks plus chemical resistant footwear
- Protective eye wear

Other WPS requirements include:

- Annual mandatory training to inform farmworkers on the required protections afforded to them. *Currently, training is only once every 5 years*.
- Expanded training includes instructions to reduce take-home exposure from pesticides on work clothing and other safety topics.
- First-time ever minimum age requirement: Children under 18 are prohibited from handling pesticides.
- Expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides. The signs prohibit entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.
- New no-entry application-exclusion zones up to 100 feet surrounding pesticide application equipment will protect workers and others from exposure to pesticide overspray.
- Requirement to provide more than one way for farmworkers and their representatives to gain access to pesticide application information and safety data sheets – centrally-posted, or by requesting records.
- Mandatory record-keeping to improve states' ability to follow up on pesticide violations and enforce compliance. Records of application-specific pesticide information, as well as farmworker training, must be kept for two years.
- Anti-retaliation provisions are comparable to Department of Labor's (DOL).
- Changes in personal protective equipment will be consistent with DOL's standards for ensuring respirators are effective, including fit test, medical evaluation and training.
- Specific amounts of water to be used for routine washing, emergency eye flushing and other decontamination, including eye wash systems for handlers at pesticide mixing/loading sites.

Continue the exemption for farm owners and their immediate families with an expanded definition of immediate family.

For more information see the EPA's Revisions to the Worker Protection Standard https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard

**I have received a few calls from farmers inquiring about Respirator Fit Testing and Medical Clearance. You would only have to meet these requirements under the WPS guidelines. Please feel free to contact me at the Extension office if you have further questions.

NOW'S THE TIME TO SCOUT WHEAT FOR CEREAL LEAF BEETLES!

Cereal leaf beetles are the most serious insect pests of small grains in North Carolina. Adult beetles usually arrive in wheat fields in March AND are about 3/16 inch long with bluish-black heads and wing covers. The legs and front segment of the thorax are rust-red.

Larvae usually begin to appear in April and are slug-like, have orange-yellow bodies and brownish-black heads and legs. However, a black globule of mucus and fecal matter usually hides the body coloration, giving them a shiny black, wet appearance. If you walk through your wheat fields, you will see little black "smudges" on your pants….this is from the cereal leaf beetle larvae.

CLB adult feeding does not injure the wheat crop. Larvae, however, eat long strips of green tissue from between leaf veins and may skeletonize entire leaves. Severely defoliated fields take on a white "frosted" cast when lots of green tissue is lost on the upper leaves.

Wheat fields should be scouted for CLB eggs and larvae in April when wheat reaches the "flag leaf" stage; this year wheat is a little further along, so I would suggest scouting earlier than usual. If there are more than 25 eggs plus larvae found on 100 tillers, an insecticide should be applied as soon as possible. This will kill the CLB population before the larvae can skeletonize leaves and reduce yields. Applications of insecticide with topdress fertilizer for preventative control are not advised. Here is a list of insecticides to control CLB in wheat:

Insecticide	Amt of Formulation Per Acre	Active Ingredient (lb) per Acre
Beta-cyfluthrin, MOA 3 (Baythroid XL) 1.0 EC	1.0 to 1.8 fl. Oz	0.008 to 0.014
Carbaryl, MOA 1A (Sevin XLR Plus) 4 EC	1 pt	0.5
Chlorpyrifos + lambda-cyhalothrin, MOA 3 (Cobalt Advanced) 75WG	11 to 25 fl. Oz	See label
Lambda-cyhalothrin, MOA 3 (Warrior, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Silencer) 1.0 EC (Warrior II and Karate Z) 2.08 CS	2.56 fl oz 1.92 fl oz	0.02 0.03
Methomyl, MOA 1A (Lannate) 2.4 LV Lannate) 90 SP	1 to 2 pt 0.25 to 0.5 lb	0.22 to 0.45 0.22 to 0.45
Zeta-cypermethrin, MOA 3 (Mustang Max) 0.8 EC	1.6 to 4.0 fl oz	0.011 to 0.025
Cyfluthrin, MOA 3 (Tombstone) 1.0 EC	1.0 to 1.8 fl oz	0.016 to 0.028
Gamma-cyhalothrin, MOA 3 (Declare) 1.25 EC	1.02 to 1.54 oz	0.01 to 0.015

The use of brand names in this publication does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service of the products or services named nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR NC INDUSTRIAL HEMP COMMISSION PILOT PROGRAM

RALEIGH – Applications are now being accepted for a pilot program to grow industrial hemp for research in North Carolina. There is no deadline to apply for the program, which is open to farmers who can show evidence of income from a farming operation. "The N.C. Industrial Hemp Commission has worked diligently and quickly to establish temporary rules before the 2017 planting season," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "There has been considerable interest in this program, and we expect a good number of farmers to apply for licenses."

Under the rules, farmers will need to apply for a license, which will allow the holder to plant, harvest and market the crop. Licenses can be for one or three years. Applications will be reviewed and approved or denied by the Industrial Hemp Commission.

Applicants will have to pay an annual fee, must provide evidence of having income from a farming operation, must provide a written statement of the research objective, and must provide access to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Plant Industry Division and law enforcement for sampling in the field or in storage.

Applicants can find more eligibility requirements online at www.ncagr.gov/hemp/Rules. To obtain an application, go to www.ncagr.gov/hemp and click on the application link, or contact Meghan Roche, seed and fertilizer field supervisor, at 919-707-3735 or by email at meghan.roche@ncagr.gov.

UPCOMING Events

Onslow County Farm Bureau/4-H Livestock Showdown
April 1, 2017
Show begins at 10:30am
Goats, Sheep, and Heifers will be shown
@ Mike's Farm 1600 Luther Banks Rd., Beulaville

Malting Barley Field Day
April 21, 2017
10am – 12pm
Oxford Research Station
650 Roberts Chapel Rd, Stem NC
Pre-Registration Required
Online: go.ncsu.edu/maltingbarley
OR
Call 919-603-1350 (Granville Extension Office)
I plan to attend the field day, if you would like to ride up there with me please let me know

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