

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

GUIDELINES FOR SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES

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2022

Before applying Pesticides – General Instructions

1. Know the pest, and how much damage is really being done.
2. Use pesticides when really needed.
3. Seek advice on proper methods of control.
4. Use only the recommended pesticide for the problem. If several pesticides are recommended, choose the least toxic to mammals and if possible, the least persistent.
5. READ THE LABEL, including small print.
6. Make sure the appropriate protective clothing is available and is used, and that all concerned with the application also understand the recommendation and are fully trained in how to apply pesticides.
7. Commercial operators using large quantities of organophosphate pesticides should visit their Doctor and have a blood cholinesterase test, and have repeated tests during the season.
8. Check application equipment for leaks, calibrate with water and ensure it is in proper working order.
9. Check that plenty of water is available with soap and towel and that a change of clean clothing is available.
10. Check that pesticides on the farm are in a dry, locked store. Avoid inhaling pesticide mist or dusts, especially in confined spaces such as the pesticide store.
11. Warn neighbours of your spray programme, especially if they have apiaries.
12. Take only sufficient pesticide for the day's application from the store to the site of application. **DO NOT** transfer pesticides into other containers, especially beer and soft drink bottles.

While mixing pesticides and during

1. Wear appropriate protective clothing. If it is contaminated, remove and replace with clean clothing.
2. Never work alone when handling the most toxic pesticides.
3. Never allow children or other unauthorized persons near the mixing.
4. Recheck the instructions on the label.

5. Avoid contamination of the skin, especially the eyes and mouth. Liquid formulation should be poured carefully to avoid splashing. Avoid powder formulations “puffing up” into the face. If contaminated with the concentrate, wash immediately.
6. Never eat, drink or smoke when mixing or applying pesticides.
7. Always have plenty of water available for washing.
8. Always stand upwind when mixing.
9. Make sure pesticides are mixed in the correct quantities.
10. Avoid inhalation of chemical, dust or fumes.
11. Start spraying near the downwind edge of the field and proceed upwind so that operators move into unsprayed areas.
12. **NEVER** blow out clogged nozzles or hoses with your mouth.
13. **AVOID** spraying when crops are in flower. Risk to bees is reduced if spray is applied in evening when they are no longer foraging. Never spray if the wind is blowing towards grazing livestock or regularly used pasture.
14. **NEVER** leave pesticides unattended in the field.
15. Provide proper supervision of those assisting with the pesticide application, and have adequate rest periods.
16. When blood tests are being conducted, do not work with pesticides if your cholinesterase level is below normal.

AFTER APPLICATION

1. **RETURN** unused pesticide to the store.
2. Safely dispose of all empty containers. As is may be difficult to bury empty containers after each day’s spraying operation, they should be kept in the pesticide store until a convenient number are ready for disposal. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE** to clean out a container sufficiently well to make it safe for use for storage of food, water or as a cooking utensil. If any containers are burnt, **NEVER** stand in the smoke.
3. **NEVER** leave pesticides in application equipment. Clean equipment and return to the store.
4. Remove and clean protective clothing.
5. Wash well and put on clean clothing. Where there is a considerable amount of spraying, the operators should be provided with a shower room.
6. Keep a record of the use of pesticides.
7. Do not allow other persons to enter the treated area for the required period if restrictions apply to the pesticide used.