Pesticide Safety and Use at the UVM Horticulture Research Center
Pesticide Safety Training
The Good Old Days?
Training Requirements for Workers

- **PESTICIDE HANDLER**: Training Required
- **FIELDWORKER**: Training Required
- **EARLY-ENTRY WORKER**: Training Required
- **ANYONE**: No Training Required

FIELD TIMELINE

- Before Treatment
- Application
- Restricted-Entry Interval

30 Days
Qualified Trainer

- Certified Private Applicator
- Certified Commercial Applicator
- Attended approved Train-the-Trainer program Agricultural Commissioner and staff
Pesticide Use at UVM HRC

- Certain crops and research projects require agrichemical use on-site
- Apples, grapes, field crops, some general areas (nursery, poison ivy control)
- Pesticide use dictated by Integrated Pest Management protocols
  - Biological
  - Cultural/Physical
  - Chemical
- Spraying generally done early morning, later evening
- Commonly sprayed areas are marked research areas, access is restricted
Fieldworker Training

- Train every 5 years
- Proof that workers received training
- Training must be done by qualified trainer
- Applies to workers in production agriculture, commercial greenhouses and nurseries, and forests. Ag research is considered production agriculture.
Posted Warning Signs

- Post just before application
- Keep posted during the REI
- Remove within 3 days of the end of the REI

SIGNS MUST BE SEEN AT ALL ENTRANCES TO TREATED AREAS

SIGNAGE AT FRONT GATE AND ‘SIGN IN’ BOOK

GENERAL SIGNAGE POSTED IN MOST COMMONLY-SPRAYED AREAS (APPLES/GRAPES)
Information at a Central Location

- Display
  - Name, address, telephone number or Emergency Medical Facility
  - Facts about the pesticide application:
    - Pesticide name, EPA number, Active Ingredients
    - Location and description of treated area
    - Application time and date and REI
Restricted Entry Intervals

- REI’s are the legally-mandated period of time after pesticide application when worker entry must be restricted, or personal protective equipment (PPE) required.
Restrictions During Applications

• Allow only appropriately trained and equipped handlers to enter
• Keep workers at least 100 feet away from areas being treated
• Allow only handlers in greenhouses:
  – During applications
  – Until label concentration level is met or after 2 hours of ventilation with fans
Pesticide Labels and MSDS

• On front office computer, folder ‘Pesticides’ on desktop

• Also on thumb drive on ‘Central Location’ bulletin board
  – If going to ER for pesticide-related treatment, bring CD and latest WPS forms (on wall above sign in book) with you
Avoid Contact with Pesticides

- Notify workers where and in what form pesticides may be encountered during work activities.
Routes of Exposure

- Skin (dermal)
- Mouth (oral)
- Eyes (ocular)
- Nose (respiratory)
Hazards Resulting from Toxicity and Exposure

- Acute effects
- Chronic effects
- Delayed effects
- Sensitization
Common Poisoning Symptoms

- Skin and eye irritation
- Nose and throat pain
- Skin rashes
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Muscle aches or cramps
- Tiredness
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
Emergency First Aid

• Flush eyes with clean water (15 minutes)

• Decontamination: Shower and clean clothes

• Inhalation: Move to fresh air and seek medical attention if symptoms persist
Emergency Assistance

- Transportation to a Medical Facility
- Provide information to victim and medical personnel:
  - Pesticide information
  - First aid and medical information
  - How pesticide was used
  - Information about victim’s exposure
Pesticide Residues on Clothing

- Change clothing daily
- Separate work clothing from family laundry
- Inform person who does the laundry
- Wash clothes separately from family laundry
Warning about Taking Pesticides Home

- Empty containers are not safe
- Agricultural pesticides are highly concentrated
- Do not put pesticides into food or beverage containers
Anti-Retaliation

- Employer cannot retaliate against workers who attempt to comply with any provision of the WPS
Pesticide Handler

• Mix, load, apply pesticides
• Work as flagger
• Assist in any way with application
• Clean, service, or repair contaminated equipment
• Handle opened containers or unrinsed empty containers
• Field scout making observations during application
Pesticide Handler Training

Applies to any employee who handles pesticides as part of their job. This includes agriculture and all non-agricultural uses.

Certified Applicators are exempt from these training requirements.

All Pesticide Handlers or Applicators at HRC Must Have VT Pesticide Applicator’s License.
Many online pesticide safety and training videos are available online at:

http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/pesticide/wps.htm

Vermont Agency of Agriculture Pesticide Training and Regulation Page:

http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/pest.htm