

“Pesticide Contamination around the Home and Garden” website offers new tools for gardeners, homeowners and pesticide applicators.

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The Montana State University Pesticide Education Program (PEP) has created the [‘pesticide contamination around the home and garden’](#) website for homeowners and applicators across the state. This is in response to the MSU Schutter Diagnostic Laboratory receiving over 112 garden samples which showed symptoms consistent with pesticide exposure from a class of chemicals known as 'growth regulator herbicides' in 2009 and 2010. This website links tools from the University of Arizona, Montana State University, University of Minnesota and Washington State University to aid applicators and educators in properly diagnosing pesticide drift or soil contamination with the use of photographs, online guides and presentations. Homeowners or educators can easily ask themselves a few questions available on the website to determine the proper direction and resources for a particular situation. This may lead to individuals contacting the Montana Department of Agriculture for enforcement action, county Extension agents for further diagnosis, MSU Pesticide Education Program with pesticide product label / mode of action questions, or assessing problems without the need of additional support.



Photo obtained at <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/aminopyralid/images.html>
(WSU; 2009)

Homeowners or applicators can also find directions on conducting their own soil bioassays, links on determining their pesticides environmental characteristics, as well as additional reference materials including the MSU MontGuide titled [“Minimizing Pesticide Contaminated Soil around the Home and Garden”](#), and the new DOW Agro [“Aminopyralid Stewardship”](#) brochure.

**Applicators should be especially aware if they are using herbicides such as aminocyclopyrachlor, clopyralid, picloram, and aminopyralid. These active ingredients can persist for years when present in grass-clippings, compost or manure. Vendors and homeowners should confirm previous pesticide applications on incoming manure, compost and/or grass-clippings prior to use or further distribution. Applicators should give homeowners or other client's written or verbal warnings as to the restrictions related to grass-clippings or manure collected from treated locations.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact your county Extension agent for more information regarding a contaminated site, or see the “Pesticide Contamination around Home and Garden” website by navigating to the MSU Pesticide Education webpage at www.pesticides.montana.edu and selecting the ‘Pesticide Contamination around the Home and Garden’ link. If you have questions regarding this article contact the MSU Pesticide Education Program (406-994-5067; ctharp@montana.edu).