MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | EXTENSION

PESTICIDE NEWS

Be Aware of Product Label Restrictions prior to the Distribution of Hay, Compost or Manure. (Monday 04/23/2012 12:00PM)

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Tomato Plant, WSU, 2009

Many pesticides which target broad leaf weeds may also damage sensitive broad leaf plants when accidentally introduced within compost, grass-clipping or manure. MSU Schutter Diagnostics has reported approximately 103 samples of non-target plant toxicity in gardens across Montana from 2009 – 2011, with approximately 79% of these reports likely linked to introduced soil amendments. Susceptible non-target plants show symptoms consistent with exposure to a class of herbicides known as 'plant growth regulators'. Plant growth regulator herbicides include the common active ingredients 2,4-D, dicamba, picloram, aminopyralid, clopyralid, and aminocyclopyrachlor. The pesticides of highest concern are picloram, clopyralid, aminopyralid and aminocyclopyrachlor because they can remain active in hay, grass clippings, piles of manure and compost for an unusually long time.

Producers using these active ingredients should pay special attention to the pesticide product label requirements. Specific label requirements regarding picloram, aminopyralid, clopyralid and aminocyclopyrachlor products vary slightly, but often contain recropping, haying, composting and manure restrictions. This is an example of some of the product label restrictions regarding aminopyralid products:

- Don't use manure from animals that have grazed forage or eaten hay harvested from treated areas within the previous 3 days, in compost, mulch or mushroom spawn.
- Don't spread manure from animals that have grazed or consumed forage or eaten hay from treated areas within the previous 3 days on land used for growing susceptible broadleaf crops.
- Manure from animals that have grazed forage or eaten hay harvested from pesticide-treated areas within the previous 3 days may only be used on pasture grasses, grass grown for seed, wheat and corn.
- Be wary of re-cropping sensitive broadleaf crops in areas treated with these pesticides or in areas containing manure from animals which have grazed hay treated with these pesticide products. A 1 – 2 year waiting period may be necessary, or a soil bioassay must be conducted to verify the concentrations of pesticide are low enough to be non-injurious towards sensitive plants.

**** Always follow your specific pesticide product label requirements.***

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Revised Product Label Requirements for Aminopyralid Products. Applicators should be aware of some new pesticide product label requirements regarding Milestone®, ForeFront®, and Chaparral™. Hay from grass treated in the preceding 18 months can't be distributed or sold off the farm or ranch where harvested unless allowed by supplemental labeling. Montana doesn't have supplemental labeling to allow for off-farm distribution. Applicators can't simply cut hay and wait 18 months as the grass needs time to metabolize the herbicide products. Applicators must wait 18 months to cut and distribute hay off treated sites. Hay also can't be used for silage, haylage, baylage and green chop if treated within the previous 18 months. Don't use manure from animals feeding on treated hay in compost. Always follow the pesticide product label. Products sold prior to the revised product label can be used according to the label present on the pesticide product container when purchased.

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. See the new pesticide product label for Milestone attached. If you have questions regarding this article contact the MSU Pesticide Education Program (406-994-5067; ctharp@montana.edu).

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