



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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WSDA Reminds Herbicide Users to Follow State Regulations Especially During High Temperatures July 2010

Phenoxy hormone-type herbicides — including 2,4-D — are some of the most commonly used herbicides in Eastern Washington. They are used to control broadleaf weeds on rangeland and pasture, in the production of wheat, on golf courses, roadside right-of-ways and lawns. However, even very small amounts of these products can severely injure sensitive agricultural crops such as grapes, as revealed in the photos below, and can damage ornamental and garden plants.



Grape leaves damaged by exposure to phenoxy hormone-type herbicide such as 2,4-D

With the exception of amine and salt formulations distributed in quantities of one gallon or less, and dry formulations intended only for home and garden or for turf use, all formulations of phenoxy hormone-type herbicides¹ and dicamba are designated as Use-Restricted Herbicides in Eastern Washington.

Because of this year's unusually cool wet spring, the Washington State Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) Pesticide Management Division is concerned that the spraying of these products has been delayed and now, with fair weather and higher temperatures, an increased use of these products poses potentially serious problems. Many forms of these herbicides can volatilize at temperatures above 85° F. This means spraying weeds on a hot summer day can create vapor clouds of herbicide that can drift and damage non-targeted, sensitive plants. Keep in mind that although the air temperature may not be 85° F, the application site may be quite different.

¹ Examples of phenoxy hormone herbicides include 2,4-D, 2,4-DB, 2,4-DP (dichlorprop), MCPA, MCPB and MCPP (mecoprop).



For example, in the photos above, an application was made along a roadside at 9:37 AM. While the ambient air temperature was 83°F, the temperature on the gravel roadside was 105°F.

There are several requirements and regulations in place to help prevent problems associated with the use of these pesticides. These include:

- First and foremost - read, understand and follow all label directions.
- Follow all WSDA-specific requirements. These include holding a valid license that allows you to purchase and use Use-Restricted Herbicides and following all county-specific herbicide rules. Examples of requirements contained within these rules include:
 - ♦ In most areas of Eastern Washington, during the summer months (May – October), you cannot spray Use-Restricted Herbicides from three hours prior to sunset until sunrise the following morning.
 - ♦ You must stop spraying Use-Restricted Herbicides if the temperature is 85⁰F or above at the point of application. (Note: Some labels may require an 80⁰F cutoff.)
 - ♦ Your spray pressure when applying Use-Restricted Herbicides cannot exceed 25 PSI at the nozzle(s).

Note: Some of the county-specific state rules related to herbicide use are posted on the WSDA website at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/LawsRules.aspx>. Those not listed can be ordered on the Laws and Rules Order form at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/Form4311.pdf>. You may either mail or fax the form to WSDA at (360) 902-2093.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact your local WSDA Pesticide Management Division Compliance Office. All offices can be reached toll free at (877) 301-4555. Select “1” for English, then select “2” for questions related to pesticide laws and then select the compliance office nearest to you.