



Standard Terminology Relating to Pesticides¹

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- absorption**—a process in which one material (the absorbent) takes in and retains another (the absorbate).
- acclimation period**—the time necessary for an animal to adjust to the laboratory and specific test environments.
- attractant**—an agent that increases the attentive frequency of an organism.
- avicide**—a chemical used to kill, control, or cause other adverse effects on birds.
- band application**—an application of a pesticide to a continuous restricted area such as in or along a crop row rather than over the entire field area.
- broadcast application**—the distribution of a material uniformly over the entire area to be treated and not just to portions of the area.
- carcinogen**—an agent producing or inciting cancerous growth.
- carrier**—(1) a gas, liquid, or solid used to propel or transport a pesticide;*(2) an organism that bears an infectious agent, but that shows no marked symptoms of the disease caused by that agent.
- cidaphobia**—sensitivity of target animals that increases their aversion to the high mortality within the population.
- chemical repellent**—any substance whose odor, taste, appearance, tactile sensation, or combination thereof produces an aversion response in the target animal.
- contact herbicide**—a chemical that kills those plant parts with which it comes into contact.
- defoliant**—a chemical that causes the foliage to drop from plants.
- deposit**—the amount of pesticide on a unit area of surface.
- dermal toxicity**—the toxic effect to an organism resulting from contact of the pesticide with the skin.
- diluent**—a gas, liquid, or solid used to reduce the concentration of an active ingredient in the formulation or application of a pesticide.
- directed application**—an application to a restricted area such as a row, bed, or at the base of plants.
- disinfestant**—an agent that kills, inactivates, or repels organisms in or on plants, animals, or inanimate objects.
- dose, dosage**—the quantity of substance applied per unit treated or applied to or entering an organism.
- emulsifiable concentrate**—a single-phase liquid system having the property of forming an emulsion when mixed with water.
- emulsifying agent**—a surfactant that promotes the suspension of one liquid in another.
- emulsion**—a suspension of fine particles or globules of one or more liquids in another liquid.
- eradication**—the complete elimination of a pest from an area.
- fumigant**—a chemical used in gaseous form to kill or inhibit pests.
- fungistat**—an agent that inhibits the germination of fungus spores or the development of mycelium.
- invert emulsion**—a water in oil emulsion also known as closed phase emulsion, total invert and invert.
- parasite**—an organism living in or on another living organism, obtaining from it part or all of its nutriment.
- pest**—an organism existing under circumstances that makes it undesirable.
- piscicide**—a chemical used to kill, control, or cause other adverse effects on fish.
- postemergence herbicide**—a chemical applied after emergence of the specified weed or crop.
- preemergence herbicide**—a chemical applied before emergence of a specified weed or planted crop.
- rate**—the quantity of pesticide applied per unit treated.
- soil application**—application of chemical made primarily to the soil rather than to vegetation.
- soil injection**—the mechanical placement of a pesticide beneath the soil surface with a minimum disturbance of the soil.
- spray drift**—the movement of airborne spray particles from the intended application (target) area.
- surfactant**—a material that improves the emulsifying, dispersing, spreading, wetting, or other surface-modifying properties of liquids.
- suspension**—a two-phase system consisting of a finely divided solid dispersed in a solid, liquid, or gas.
- systemic disease**—a disease in which the pathogen or its products spread throughout the organism.
- teratogen**—a chemical agent that causes congenital malformations in a developing embryo or fetus

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