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Standard Terminology Relating to Agricultural Tank Mix Adjuvants¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology is used or is likely to be used in test methods, specifications, guides, and practices related to agricultural tank mix adjuvants.

1.2 These definitions are written to ensure that standards related to agricultural tank mix adjuvants are properly understood and interpreted.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D459 Terminology Relating to Soaps and Other Detergents](#)

[D483 Test Method for Un sulfonated Residue of Petroleum Plant Spray Oils](#)

[E609 Terminology Relating to Pesticides](#)

[D2140 Practice for Calculating Carbon-Type Composition of Insulating Oils of Petroleum Origin](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Terms and Definitions:*

absorption—a process in which one material (the absorbent) takes in and retains another (the absorbate).

acidifier—a material that can be added to spray mixtures to lower the pH.

activator—a material that increases the biological efficacy of agrichemicals.

active ingredient—a component of the formulation that produces a specific effect for which the formulation is designed.

adjuvant—a material added to a tank mix to aid or modify the action of an agrichemical, or the physical characteristics of the mixture.

alkalinity agent—a material that can be added to the spray mixture to raise the pH.

amphoteric surfactant—a surface-active agent capable of forming, in aqueous solution, either surface-active anions or surface-active cations depending on the pH.

anionic surfactant—a surface-active agent in which the active portion of the molecule containing the lipophilic segment forms exclusively a negative ion (anion) when placed in aqueous solution.

antifoaming agent—a material used to inhibit or prevent the formation of foam.

attractant—a material that attracts specific pests.

basic blend—a combination of wetting agent and buffering agent that maintains a pH of the spray mixture greater than 7.

buffer or buffering agent—a compound or mixture that, when contained in solution, causes the solution to resist change in pH. Each buffer has a characteristic limited range of pH over which it is effective.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E35 on Pesticides, Antimicrobials, and Alternative Control Agents and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E35.22 on Pesticide Formulations and Delivery Systems.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

canopy penetrating agent—an adjuvant that increases the penetration of the spray material into the crop canopy. See **deposition aid**.

cationic surfactant—a surface-active agent in which the active portion of the molecule containing the lipophilic segment forms exclusively a positive ion (cation) when placed in aqueous solution.

colorant—a material used to alter the color of the tank mix.

compatibility agent—a surface-active agent that allows simultaneous application of liquid fertilizer and agrichemical, or two or more agrichemical formulations, as a uniform tank mix, or improves the homogeneity of the mixture and the uniformity of the application.

crop oil concentrate—an emulsifiable petroleum oil-based product containing 15 to 20 % w/w surfactant and a minimum of 80 % w/w phytobland oil.

crop oil (emulsifiable)—an emulsifiable petroleum oil-based product containing up to 5 % w/w surfactant and the remainder of a phytobland oil.

crop oil (non-emulsifiable)—See **phytobland oil**.

defoaming agent—a material that eliminates or suppresses foam in the spray tank

deposition aid—a material that improves the ability of agrichemical sprays to deposit on targeted surfaces.

dormant oil—a horticultural spray oil applied during the dormant phase of the targeted plant. (See **horticultural spray oil**.)

drift control agent—See **drift reduction agent**.

drift control reduction agent—a material used in liquid spray mixtures to reduce spray drift-driftable fines.

drift reduction agentdriftable fines—See **drift control agent**.the percent volume of spray droplet size distribution that is under 105 microns.

emulsifier—a surfactant that promotes the suspension of one immiscible liquid in another.

esterified seed oil—a modified seed oil wherein the fatty acids are esterified with an alcohol (such as methyl or ethyl).

evaporation reduction agent—a material that reduces the evaporation rate of a spray mix during or after application, or both.

extender—a material that increases the effective life of an agrichemical after application.

foam suppressant—See **defoamer**.

foaming agent—a material that increases the volume or stability of the foam formed in a spray mixture.

foliar retention agent—a substance that increases the time and agrichemical remains in the targeted foliar zone.

functioning agent—a component of the formulation that produces a specific effect for which the formulation is designed.

high surfactant oil concentrate—an emulsifiable oil based product containing 25–50% w/w surfactant an a minimum of 50% w/w oil.

humectant—a material which increases the equilibrium water content and increases the drying time of an aqueous spray deposit.

modified vegetable oil—an oil, extracted from seeds, that has been chemically modified (for example, methylated).

modified vegetable oil concentrate—an emulsifiable, chemically modified vegetable oil product containing 5 to 20 % w/w surfactant and the remainder chemically modified vegetable oil.

naphtha-based oil—a petroleum oil containing a majority of the naphtha fraction.

nonionic surfactant—a surface-active agent having no ionizable polar end groups but comprised of hydrophilic and lipophilic segments.

oil—See **petroleum, vegetable, paraffinic**, and so forth.

paraffinic oil—a petroleum oil (derived from paraffin crude oil) whose paraffinic carbon type content is typically greater than 60 %. **D2140**

penetrant—a material that enhances the ability of an agrichemical to enter a substrate or penetrate a surface.

petroleum oil—oil derived from petroleum; contains a mixture of hydrocarbons that are broadly classified as paraffins, naphthenes, aromatics, or other unsaturates, or combination thereof.

phytobland oil—a highly refined paraffinic material with a minimum unsulfonated residue of 92 % v/v. **D483**