

## Chapter 17

### Pesticide Basics

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#### Pesticide Labels

A pesticide label is a legal document. Each user is required by law to apply any pesticide only in a manner that is consistent with label directions. If for any reason use rates or application guidelines presented in this publication or other references are not consistent with instructions on the label, users are reminded that the label takes precedence and must be obeyed. It is **ILLEGAL** to apply pesticides:

- Using less water than the label instructs (increasing the concentration).
- At a higher rate per acre than the label instructs.
- More frequently than the label instructs.

Specified preharvest intervals (minimum number of days between the last application and crop harvest) also must be obeyed.

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#### Pesticide Formulations and Spray Adjuvants

Pesticide products contain at least one active ingredient that is combined with liquid or solid carriers to produce formulations that are safer or more practical to apply than the active ingredient alone. Common formulations include wettable powders, liquid concentrates, emulsifiable concentrates, dry flowable formulations, flowable liquids, soluble powders, dusts, and granules.

Several types of additives are available to improve the effectiveness of spray applications. Collectively, they are known as adjuvants. Do not use an adjuvant with any pesticide without first consulting the specific pesticide label. Improper selection or use can result in crop injury or reduced effectiveness, particularly when adjuvants are mixed with emulsible concentrates.