

GLOSSARY

- ABIOTIC FACTORS** Related to nonliving elements, such as air pollutants, wind, water, and temperature.
- ABSORPTION** The movement of a chemical into plants, animals (including humans), microorganisms, or soil.
- ACARICIDE** A pesticide used to control mites and ticks. A miticide is a type of acaricide.
- ACIDIC** Having a pH less than 7.
- ACTION THRESHOLD** A predetermined level of pest infestation or damage at which some type of pest management action must be taken.
- ACTIVATED CHARCOAL** A finely ground charcoal that adsorbs chemicals.
- ACTIVATOR** An adjuvant added to a pesticide to increase its toxicity.
- ACTIVE INGREDIENT** The chemical or chemicals in a product responsible for pesticidal activity.
- ACUTE EFFECTS** Illnesses or injuries that occur shortly (within 24 hours) after exposure to a pesticide.
- ACUTE EXPOSURE** An exposure to a single dose of pesticide.
- ACUTE TOXICITY** An injury or illness produced from a single pesticide exposure. LD₅₀ and LC₅₀ are common indicators of the degree of acute toxicity.
- ADJUVANT (ADDITIVE)** A substance added to a pesticide to improve its effectiveness or safety. Examples include penetrants, sticker-spreaders, and wetting agents.
- ADSORPTION** The process whereby chemicals are held or bound to a surface by physical or chemical attraction. Clay and high-organic soils tend to adsorb pesticides.
- ADULTERATED PESTICIDE** A pest control product that does not conform to the specified standard or quality documented on its label or labeling.
- ADVISORY STATEMENTS** Manufacturer recommendations or best management practices for optimal use of a pesticide product. Pesticide handlers are not legally required to follow advisory statements.
- AEROSOL** A chemical stored in a container under pressure. An extremely fine mist is produced when the material, dissolved in a liquid, is released into the air.
- AGITATION SYSTEM** A device that stirs or mixes a pesticide product in a sprayer.
- AIR-BLAST SPRAYER** A type of pesticide application equipment that uses a large volume of air moving at high speed to break up and disperse spray droplets from the nozzles.
- AIR-PURIFYING RESPIRATOR (APR)** A safety device that uses filters or sorbents to remove hazardous substances, including pesticides, from the air.
- ALGAE** Relatively simple plants that are photosynthetic and contain chlorophyll.
- ALGAECIDE (ALGICIDE)** A pesticide used to kill or inhibit algae.
- ALKALINE** Having a pH greater than 7 (also called basic).
- ALLERGIC EFFECTS/ALLERGY** A hypersensitivity to a specific substance, often called the allergen. An allergy may cause dermatitis, blisters, or hives. It could also cause illness, asthma, or life-threatening shock. Often the entire body is affected. Pesticide allergy symptoms are similar to other allergy symptoms—reddening and itching of the eyes, respiratory discomfort, and asthma-like symptoms.

- ANIMAL SYSTEMICS** Pesticide products that are absorbed by, enter the tissues of, and move within the treated animal.
- ANNUAL** A plant that completes its life cycle in one year.
- ANTAGONISM** The reduction of pesticide activity when two or more different pesticides are mixed together.
- ANTIBIOTIC** Chemical produced by a microorganism that is toxic to other microorganisms. Examples include streptomycin and penicillin.
- ANTICOAGULANT** A chemical that prevents normal blood clotting; the active ingredient in some rodenticides.
- ANTIDOTE** A practical treatment used to counteract the effects of pesticide poisoning or some other poison in the body.
- ANTI-SIPHONING DEVICE** A hose attachment designed to prevent backflow of a pesticide mix from the spray tank into a water source.
- APPLICATION RATE** The amount of pesticide that is applied to a known area, such as an acre or 1,000 square feet or linear feet.
- AQUIFER** A geologic formation from which groundwater may be drawn. An aquifer can be a layer of sand, gravel, or other soil materials or a section of bedrock with fractures through which water can flow.
- ARACHNID** A wingless arthropod with two body regions and four pairs of jointed legs. Spiders, ticks, and mites are arachnids.
- ARTHROPOD** An invertebrate animal characterized by a jointed body and limbs and usually a hard body covering that is molted at intervals. Insects, mites, and crayfish are arthropods.
- ATMOSPHERE-SUPPLYING RESPIRATOR** A safety device that provides a supply of breathable air from a clean, independent outside source. Examples include SCBA and supplied-air respirators.
- ATROPINE (ATROPINE SULFATE)** An antidote used to treat organophosphate and carbamate poisoning.
- ATTRACTANT** A substance or device used to lure insects or other pests to a trap or poison bait.
- AVICIDE** A chemical used to kill or repel birds.
- BACK-SIPHONING** The movement of a liquid pesticide mixture from a spray tank through the filling hose into the water source.
- BACTERIA** (singular: **BACTERIUM**) Microscopic organisms, some of which can produce diseases in plants and animals.
- BACTERICIDE** A chemical used to control bacteria.
- BAIT** A food or other substance used to attract a pest to a pesticide or a trap.
- BAND APPLICATION** A pesticide or other material applied in or beside a crop row instead of over the entire field.
- BASAL APPLICATION** An herbicide applied to plant stems or trunks at or just above the ground line.
- BENEFICIAL** An insect that is useful or helpful to humans. Examples include pollinators, parasites, and pest predators.
- BIENNIAL** A plant that completes its life cycle in two years.
- BIOACCUMULATION** The ability of organisms to accumulate or store chemicals in their tissues.
- BIOLOGICAL CONTROL** Pest management using predators, parasites, and disease-causing organisms. It may be naturally occurring or introduced.
- BIOLOGICAL DEGRADATION** The breakdown of chemicals due to the activity of living organisms, especially bacteria and fungi in the soil.
- BIOMAGNIFICATION** The process whereby some organisms accumulate chemical residues in higher concentrations than those found in the organisms they consume.
- BIOPESTICIDE** A pest control product derived from naturally occurring materials.
- BOOM** A pesticide application device attached to a truck, tractor, aircraft, or other vehicle (or held by hand) to which multiple spray nozzles are attached.
- BOTANICAL PESTICIDE** A pest control product produced from naturally occurring chemicals in plants. Examples include nicotine, pyrethrum, and rotenone.
- BRAND NAME** The registered or trade name, number, or designation given to a specific pesticide product or device by the manufacturer or formulator.
- BREAKTHROUGH** The penetration of pesticide through PPE, such as a liquid through gloves or a gas through a respirator. If this happens, the PPE is no longer protective.

- BROADCAST APPLICATION** A pesticide or other material uniformly applied over an entire field or area.
- BROADLEAVES (DICOTS)** Plants with broad, rounded, or flattened leaves with netted veins. Examples include dandelions and roses. Different from grasses, sedges, rushes, and onions (monocots), which have narrow, bladelike leaves with parallel veins.
- BROAD-SPECTRUM PESTICIDE** A pest control product that is effective against a wide range of pests.
- BUFFERS** Adjuvants used to slow chemical degradation of some pesticides by lowering the pH of alkaline water and maintaining the pH within a narrow range, even with the addition of acidic or alkaline materials.
- CALIBRATE/CALIBRATION** To properly adjust equipment; to determine the correct amount of material to be applied to the target area.
- CARBAMATES** A group of pesticides commonly used to control insects, mites, fungi, and weeds. N-methyl carbamate insecticides, miticides, and nematocides are cholinesterase inhibitors.
- CARCINOGEN** A substance or agent able to produce malignant tumors (cancer).
- CARRIER** An inert liquid, solid, or gas added to an active ingredient to make a pesticide formulation. A carrier is also the material, usually water or oil, used to dilute the formulated product for application.
- CAUSAL ORGANISM** The pathogen that produces a given disease.
- CAUTION** The signal word associated with pesticide products classified as slightly toxic. These pesticides have an oral LD₅₀ greater than 500mg/kg and a dermal LD₅₀ greater than 2,000mg/kg.
- CERTIFIED APPLICATOR** A person qualified to apply or supervise the application of restricted-use pesticides.
- CHEMICAL CARTRIDGE/CHEMICAL CANISTER** For air-purifying respirators, the type of purifying element that removes specific gases or vapors by absorbing or adsorbing them.
- CHEMICAL DEGRADATION** The breakdown of chemicals that do not involve living organisms, usually by a chemical reaction with water.
- CHEMICAL NAME** The technical term for the active ingredient(s) found in the formulated product. This complex name is derived from the chemical structure of the active ingredient.
- CHEMICAL INCOMPATIBILITY** What occurs when mixing certain pesticides in a spray tank alters the activity of one or more of them.
- CHEMICAL-RESISTANT PPE** When specified by the pesticide label, a legal definition that the PPE “shall be made of material that allows no measurable movement of the pesticide being used through the material during use” [U.S. EPA. 40 CFR 170.240 Personal protective equipment].
- CHEMIGATION** The application of pesticides or fertilizers to a target site in irrigation water. Also known as injector systems when used in greenhouses.
- CHEMOSTERILANT** A chemical used to sterilize insects or pest vertebrates without altering mating habits or life expectancy.
- CHEMTREC** The Chemical Transportation Emergency Center. It supports a toll-free number (800-424-9300) that provides 24-hour information for chemical emergencies, such as a spill, leak, fire, or accident.
- CHLORINATED HYDROCARBON (ORGANOCHLORINE)** A pesticide containing chlorine, carbon, and hydrogen. Many are persistent in the environment. Examples include chlordane, DDT, and methoxychlor.
- CHLOROSIS** The yellowing of a plant’s normally green tissue.
- CHOLINESTERASE** A chemical catalyst (enzyme) found in humans and many other animals that regulates the activity of nerve impulses by deactivating the chemical neurotransmitter acetylcholine.
- CHRONIC TOXICITY** The ability of small amounts of pesticide from repeated, prolonged exposure to cause injury.
- COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR** A certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of pesticides for purposes other than those covered under a private applicator certification.
- COMMON NAME** A name given to a pesticide active ingredient by a recognized committee on pesticide nomenclature. Although many pesticides are known by a number of trade or brand names, each active ingredient has only one recognized common name. For example, the common name for Sevin insecticide is carbaryl.
- COMPATIBILITY AGENT** An adjuvant used to enhance the mixing of two or more pesticide products and/or fertilizers.

- COMPATIBLE** A mixture of two or more chemicals that does not reduce the effectiveness or characteristics of any individual chemical.
- CONCENTRATE** See **PESTICIDE CONCENTRATE**.
- CONCENTRATION** The amount of active ingredient in a given volume or weight of formulated product.
- CONTACT (LOCAL) EFFECTS** Injury at the point of contact, including skin discoloration and irritation (dermatitis), such as itching, redness, rashes, blisters, and burns. Swelling; stinging; and burning of the eyes, nose, mouth, or throat are all contact effects.
- CONTACT PESTICIDE** Any pest control product that affects pest organisms upon contact. These may be insecticides, miticides, fungicides, or herbicides.
- CONTAINMENT PAD** An impermeable mat used for mixing and loading pesticides and cleaning equipment that is designed to catch spills, leaks, overflows, and wash water for reuse or disposal.
- CONTAMINATION** The presence of an unwanted substance in or on a plant, animal, soil, water, air, or structure.
- CORROSIVE POISON** A substance containing a strong acid or base that will severely burn the skin, mouth, stomach, or respiratory tract.
- CRACK-AND-CREVICE APPLICATION** Small amounts of pesticide placed into cracks and crevices in buildings (such as along baseboards and in cabinets).
- CROSS-CONTAMINATION** The accidental mixing of one pesticide with another, usually in an improperly cleaned sprayer or in storage because of the airborne movement of a volatile pesticide.
- CROSS-RESISTANCE** When a pest population that is already resistant to one pesticide becomes resistant to a related chemical with a similar mode of action.
- CURATIVE PESTICIDE** A pest control product that can inhibit or kill a disease-causing organism after it is established in the plant or animal.
- DANGER** The signal word associated with pesticide products classified as highly toxic by at least one route of entry.
- DANGER—POISON** The signal word associated with pesticide products classified as highly toxic, corrosive, or highly irritating to skin and eyes.
- DAYS TO HARVEST (PREHARVEST INTERVAL)** The minimum number of days permitted by law between the last pesticide application and the harvest date of the crop.
- DAYS TO SLAUGHTER (PRESLAUGHTER INTERVAL)** The minimum number of days permitted by law between the last pesticide application and the date the food animal is slaughtered.
- DECONTAMINATE** To remove or degrade a chemical residue from the skin or a surface.
- DEFOAMING AGENT** An adjuvant used to reduce the foaming of a spray mixture due to agitation.
- DEFOLIANT** A chemical that initiates the premature drop of leaves, often as an aid in harvesting a crop.
- DEGRADATION** The process by which a chemical compound is broken down into simpler compounds by the action of microorganisms, water, air, sunlight, or other agents. Degradation products are usually—but not always—less toxic than the original compound.
- DELAYED EFFECTS** Illnesses or injuries that do not appear immediately (within 24 hours) after exposure to a pesticide. The effects may be delayed for weeks, months, or even years.
- DEPOSIT** The presence of a pesticide on a treated surface after application.
- DERMAL** Pertaining to the skin.
- DERMAL LD₅₀** The amount of a pesticide that can kill 50% of a population of test animals when absorbed through the skin.
- DERMAL TOXICITY** The ability of a pesticide to injure a human or animal when absorbed through the skin.
- DERMATITIS** The inflammation, itching, irritation, or occurrence of a rash after exposure to a chemical.
- DESICCANT** A chemical that promotes drying or loss of moisture from leaves or other plant parts. Also, a chemical that removes water from arthropods or destroys the waxy covering that protects these organisms from water loss.
- DETOXIFY** To render a pesticide active ingredient or other poisonous chemical harmless.
- DIAGNOSIS** The positive identification of a problem and its cause.
- DILUENT** Any inert liquid, solid, or gaseous material that is combined with a pesticide active ingredient during the manufacturing process. Also, the water, petroleum product, or other liquid in which the formulated product is mixed before application.

- DIRECTED APPLICATION** A pesticide precisely applied to a specific area or site. Examples include a basal application to woody plants or a crack-and-crevice treatment in a building.
- DISINFECTANT (ANTIMICROBIAL)** A chemical or other agent that kills or inactivates disease-producing microorganisms in animals, seeds, or other plant parts. Also commonly refers to chemicals used to clean or surface-sterilize inanimate objects.
- DISPERSING AGENT** An adjuvant that facilitates the mixing and suspension of a pesticide formulation in water.
- DORMANT SPRAY** A pesticide application made in late winter or early spring before plants resume active growth.
- DOSE/DOSAGE** The quantity of pesticide applied to a given site or target.
- DRIFT** The airborne movement of a pesticide spray, dust, particle, or vapor beyond the target area.
- DRIFT CONTROL ADDITIVE** An adjuvant added to a spray mixture to reduce drift.
- DROP SPREADER** A common type of granular applicator with an adjustable sliding gate that opens holes in the bottom of the hopper. Granules flow out by gravity feed.
- DRY FLOWABLE** A granular pesticide formulation that forms a suspension when added to water.
- DUST** A finely ground, dry pesticide formulation containing a small amount of active ingredient and a large amount of inert carrier or diluent, such as clay or talc.
- ECONOMIC INJURY LEVEL (EIL)** The pest population density (number of pests per unit area) that causes losses equal to the cost of control measures.
- ECONOMIC THRESHOLD (ET)** The pest population density (number of pests per unit area) at which control measures are needed to prevent the pest from causing economic injury.
- EDUCTOR** Also referred to as an inductor or a jet pump, it is a device that enables small pumps to circulate large volumes of tank solution. When pumping is used for solution agitation, the use of an eductor will circulate 4 to 5 gallons of solution in the tank for every 1 gallon that is pumped. They also are used to add the pesticide into the tank for automated field mixing.
- EMERGENCY EXEMPTION** A Section 18 exemption that allows the sale and use of a registered pesticide product for a specific nonregistered purpose during a specified period if no feasible alternative is available.
- EMULSIFIABLE CONCENTRATE (EC)** A pesticide formulation produced by mixing an active ingredient and an emulsifying agent in a suitable petroleum solvent. When combined with water, a milky emulsion is usually formed.
- EMULSIFYING AGENT (EMULSIFIER)** A chemical that aids in the suspension of one liquid in another that normally would not mix together.
- EMULSION** A mixture of two liquids that are not soluble in each other. One is suspended as very small droplets in the other with the aid of an emulsifying agent. An example is emulsifiable concentrate in water.
- ENCAPSULATED PESTICIDE** A formulation with the active ingredient enclosed in capsules of polyvinyl or other synthetic materials, mainly used for slow release and to prolong the effectiveness of the materials. May also refer to a method of disposal of pesticides and pesticide containers by sealing them in a sturdy, waterproof container to prevent leakage.
- ENCLOSED CAB** Tractor cab, cockpit, or truck/vehicle cab that surrounds the occupant(s). It may help to prevent exposure to pesticides as long as all doors, hatches, and windows remain closed during the pesticide application.
- ENDANGERED SPECIES** Organisms (plants or animals) whose population has been reduced to near extinction.
- ENVIRONMENT** All the features that surround and affect an organism or group of organisms.
- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)** The federal agency responsible for implementing pesticide rules and regulations and registering pesticides.
- EPA ESTABLISHMENT NUMBER** A number assigned to each pesticide production facility by EPA. The number indicates the plant at which the pesticide product was produced and must appear on all labels of that product.
- EPA REGISTRATION NUMBER** A number assigned to a pesticide product by EPA when the product is registered by the manufacturer or the designated agent. The number must appear on all labels for a particular product.

- ERADICANT** A chemical or other agent (e.g., steam or heat) used to eliminate an established pest from a plant, animal, or specific site (e.g., soil, water, or buildings).
- ERADICATION** A pest management strategy that attempts to eliminate all members of a pest population from a defined area.
- EXPOSURE** Unwanted contact with pesticides or pesticide residues by people, other organisms, or the environment.
- FACEPIECE (TIGHT-FITTING)** A respirator that forms a complete seal with the face. Examples include particulate-filtering facepieces, half masks, and full facepiece masks.
- FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT (FIFRA)** A federal law dealing with pesticide regulations and use.
- FILTER (HEPA)** High-efficiency particulate air filter. A high-efficiency filter is used in powered air-purifying respirators. The P100 cartridge used in nonpowered APRs is equivalent to a HEPA filter.
- FILTER (PARTICULATE)** For nonpowered air-purifying respirators, a purifying element that removes aerosols (solid or liquid particulates) from the air. Particulate filters are rated N, R, or P for oil degradation and 95, 99, or 100 for filtering efficiency.
- FILTER EFFICIENCY** For air-purifying respirators, the collective efficiency of a filter to resist penetration by particulates. Nonpowered APR filters are tested and rated at 95%, 99%, and 99.7% efficiency. The higher the number, the more efficient the filter. Powered APR filters are tested and rated as “high efficiency” (HE).
- FILTERING FACEPIECE RESPIRATOR** A type of nonpowered APR in which a particulate filter is an integral part of the facepiece (or the entire facepiece is composed of the filtering medium).
- FIT TEST (QUALITATIVE)** A method to assess whether a particular size and brand of respirator adequately fits an individual’s face using a test agent. If the person can detect inside the mask an agent that is outside the mask, there is leakage at the seal and the mask does not fit properly.
- FIT TEST (QUANTITATIVE)** A method to assess whether a particular size and brand of respirator adequately fits an individual’s face using instrumentation to numerically measure leakage into the respirator.
- FLAMMABLE** Capable of being easily ignited.
- FLOWABLE** A pesticide formulation in which a very finely ground solid particle, composed of both active and inert ingredients, is suspended in a liquid carrier. These formulations are mixed with water before spraying.
- FOAMING AGENT** An adjuvant designed to reduce pesticide drift by producing thick foam.
- FOG TREATMENT** The application of a pesticide as a fine mist or fog.
- FOLIAR APPLICATION** A pesticide applied to the leaves of plants.
- FOOD CHAIN** A sequence of species within an ecological community. Each member serves as a food source for the species next higher in the chain.
- FORMULATION** A pesticide product as purchased, containing a mixture of one or more active ingredients, carriers (inert ingredients), and other additives diluted for safety and ease of application.
- FUMIGANT** A pesticide that forms gases or vapors toxic to plants, animals, and microorganisms.
- FUNGI** (singular: **FUNGUS**) Nonchlorophyll-bearing plants that live as saprophytes or parasites. Some infect and cause diseases in plants, animals, and humans or destroy wood and fiber products. Others are beneficial, such as decomposers and human food sources. Examples include rusts, mildews, molds, and smuts.
- FUNGICIDE** A chemical used to control fungi.
- FUNGISTATIC AGENT** A chemical that inhibits the germination of fungal spores or the growth of mycelium but does not kill the fungus.
- GENERAL-USE PESTICIDE** A pest control product that can be purchased and used by the public.
- GERMINATION** The sprouting of a seed or the production of a germ tube (mycelium) from a fungus spore.
- GPA** Gallons per acre.
- GPM** Gallons per minute.
- GRANULE** A dry pesticide formulation. The active ingredient is either mixed with or coated onto an inert carrier to form a small, ready-to-use, low-concentrate particle that is not normally a drift hazard. Pellets differ from granules only in their precise uniformity, larger size, and shape.

- GROUNDWATER** Water located in aquifers beneath the soil surface from which well water is obtained or surface springs are formed.
- GROWTH REGULATOR** A chemical that alters the growth processes of a plant or animal.
- HABITAT** A place where plants or animals live, feed, and reproduce.
- HARVEST AID CHEMICAL** A chemical material applied to a plant before harvest to reduce the amount of plant foliage.
- HAZARD** The likelihood that injury or death will occur from a given level and duration of exposure to a toxic chemical.
- HEAT STRESS** Overheating of the body that, if severe, may be life-threatening.
- HERBACEOUS PLANTS** Plants that do not develop woody tissues.
- HERBICIDE** A pesticide used to control weeds.
- HIGH-EFFICIENCY FILTER** See **FILTER (HEPA)**.
- HOST** A plant or animal on or in which a pest lives and feeds.
- HOST RESISTANCE** The ability of a host plant or animal to resist attack by pests or to be able to tolerate the damage caused by pests. (Also called **PEST RESISTANCE**.)
- HYDRAULIC SPRAYER** A type of pesticide application equipment that uses water under pressure to deliver the pesticide to the target site.
- HYDROLYSIS** Breakdown of a chemical in the presence of water.
- ILLEGAL RESIDUE** A quantity of pesticide remaining on or in the crop/animal at harvest/slaughter that is either above the set tolerance or may not be used on the crop/animal.
- IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS TO LIFE OR HEALTH (IDLH)** Used to describe an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere. Environments that have less than 19.5% oxygen by volume are considered IDLH by OSHA.
- IMPREGNATES** Pet collars, livestock ear tags, adhesive tapes, plastic pest strips, and other products with pesticides incorporated into them. These pesticides slowly emit vapors over time and provide control of nearby pests.
- INCOMPATIBLE** Two or more materials that cannot be mixed or used together.
- INERT INGREDIENTS** Inactive materials in a pesticide formulation without pesticidal activity. Some inert ingredients, however, may be toxic or hazardous to humans.
- INGREDIENT STATEMENT** The portion of the label on a pesticide container that gives the name and amount of each active ingredient and the total amount of inert ingredients in the formulation.
- INHALATION TOXICITY** The ability of a pesticide to harm humans or animals when breathed in through the nose and mouth into the lungs.
- INOCULUM** That part of a pathogen that can cause disease in a host.
- INORGANIC PESTICIDES** Pest control products of mineral origin that do not contain carbon.
- INSECT GROWTH REGULATOR (IGR)** A type of insecticide that controls certain insects by disrupting their normal growth process from immature to adult.
- INSECTICIDE** A pesticide used to control or prevent damage caused by insects and related arthropods.
- INSECTS** Arthropods characterized by a body composed of three segments and three pairs of legs.
- INSOLUBLE** A chemical that does not dissolve in a liquid. For example, a wettable powder does not dissolve in water but instead forms a suspension.
- INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)** The use of all suitable pest control methods to keep pest populations below the economic injury level. Methods include cultural practices; use of biological, physical, and genetic control agents; and the selective use of pesticides.
- INVERT EMULSION** A mixture in which water droplets are suspended in an oil instead of oil droplets being suspended in water.
- INVERTEBRATE** A class of animals that lack backbones. Examples include insects, spiders, nematodes, snails, and slugs.
- KEY PEST** An organism that may cause major damage on a regular basis unless it is controlled.
- LABEL** All the printed material attached to or part of a pesticide container. The label is a legal document.

- LABELING** The pesticide product label and all supplemental pesticide information. Labeling complements the label information but may not necessarily be attached to or part of the container.
- LARVAE** (singular: **LARVA**) Immature forms of insects that undergo complete metamorphosis: developmental stages are egg, larva, pupa, and adult.
- LARVICIDE** A pesticide used to kill insect larvae. Commonly used to control mosquito and black fly larvae.
- LC₅₀** The concentration of a pesticide, usually in air or water, that can kill 50% of a population of test animals. LC₅₀ is usually expressed in parts per million (ppm). The lower the LC₅₀ value, the more acutely toxic the chemical.
- LD₅₀** The dose or amount of a pesticide that can kill 50% of a population of test animals when eaten or absorbed through the skin. LD₅₀ is expressed in milligrams of chemical per kilogram of body weight (mg/kg) of the test animal. The lower the LD₅₀ value, the more acutely toxic the chemical.
- LEACHING** The movement through soil of a pesticide or other chemical that is dissolved in water.
- LETHAL CONCENTRATION** See **LC₅₀**.
- LETHAL DOSE** See **LD₅₀**.
- LIFE CYCLE** The series of stages that an organism passes through during its life. Many pest species, both plants and animals, pass through several life stages during which their susceptibility to or tolerance of pesticides varies greatly.
- LOCAL EFFECTS** See **CONTACT (LOCAL) EFFECTS**.
- MANDATORY STATEMENTS** Label directions that a pesticide handler must follow to legally use the pesticide.
- METABOLITE** In pesticides, a compound derived from changes in the active ingredient through chemical, biological, or physical reactions. The metabolite may be simpler or more complex and may or may not be more poisonous than the original chemical.
- METAMORPHOSIS** A change in the shape, size, and/or form of animals as they develop from eggs to adults.
- MICROBIAL DEGRADATION** Breakdown of a chemical by microorganisms.
- MICROBIAL PESTICIDE (BIORATIONAL)** Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other microorganisms used to control pests.
- MICROENCAPSULATED PESTICIDE** A formulation in which the pesticide active ingredient is encased in plastic capsules. When the capsules start to break down after application, the pesticide is slowly released.
- MICROORGANISM** An organism that is so small it cannot be seen without the aid of a microscope.
- MINIBULK** A container that ranges in volume from 40 to 600 gallons and is adapted to closed systems. A minibulk container can be returned to the dealer for refilling.
- MINIMUM-RISK PESTICIDES** Products that pose a minimal risk to humans and the environment and thus are exempt from federal registration.
- MISCIBLE LIQUIDS** Two or more fluids that can be mixed and will remain mixed under most conditions. Water and ethyl alcohol are miscible; water and oil are not.
- MITE** A small arthropod similar to an insect but with eight legs, two body parts, and no antennae.
- MITICIDE** A pesticide used to control mites.
- MODE OF ACTION** The way in which a pesticide affects the target plant, animal, or microorganism.
- MOLLUSCICIDE** A chemical used to control snails and slugs.
- MOLTING** In invertebrates (such as insects, spiders, and mites), the process of shedding the outer body covering or exoskeleton. Molting allows the animal to grow larger.
- MUTAGEN** A substance or agent able to cause genetic changes in living cells.
- MYCELIUM** The mass of filaments that forms the body of a fungus.
- MYCOPLASMA** A microorganism possessing many virus- and bacteria-like properties. Some cause plant diseases.
- NARROW-SPECTRUM PESTICIDE** A pest control product that is effective against only one or a few species of pests. Usually associated with insecticides and fungicides.
- NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (NIOSH)** A federal agency that conducts research on health and safety concerns, tests and certifies respirators, and trains occupational safety and health professionals.
- NATURAL ENEMIES** The predators, parasites, and pathogens that attack and often kill other organisms.

- NECROSIS** The death of plant or animal tissues that causes the formation of discolored, sunken, and dead (necrotic) areas.
- NEMATICIDE** A pesticide used to control nematodes.
- NEMATODES** Microscopic, colorless, wormlike animals that live as saprophytes or parasites. Many cause diseases of plants or animals.
- NEUROTOXIN** A substance or agent able to cause disorders of the nervous system.
- NO OBSERVABLE EFFECT LEVEL (NOEL)** The maximum dose or exposure level of a pesticide that produces no observable toxic effect on test animals.
- NONPERSISTENT PESTICIDE** A pest control product that does not remain active in the environment more than one growing season.
- NONPOINT-SOURCE POLLUTION** Contamination that comes from a widespread area. An example is the movement of pesticides into streams or groundwater following a broadcast application to an agricultural field, large turf area, or right-of-way.
- NONSELECTIVE PESTICIDE** A pest control product that is toxic to a wide range of plants or animals without regard to species. For example, a nonselective herbicide can kill or damage all plants it contacts.
- NONTARGET ORGANISMS** Plants or animals within or near a pesticide-treated area that are not the intended targets of the application.
- NOXIOUS WEED** A plant defined by law as being particularly troublesome, undesirable, and difficult to control.
- NOZZLES** Atomizing devices that produce droplets that form the spray pattern.
- NUISANCE DUST** Dust that is relatively harmless to the lungs. It does not produce significant organic disease or toxic effects when exposures are kept at reasonable levels.
- NYMPH** The developmental state of insects with gradual metamorphosis that hatch from the egg. Nymphs become adults.
- OCCASIONAL PEST** An organism that causes intermittent damage as a result of changing environmental conditions or fluctuations in populations of natural enemies.
- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)** A federal agency that issues and enforces regulations for workplace health and safety.
- OCULAR** Pertaining to the eyes.
- ONCOGEN** A substance or agent able to induce tumors (not necessarily cancerous) in living tissues.
- ORAL LD₅₀** The dose of a pesticide that can kill 50% of a population of test animals when eaten.
- ORAL TOXICITY** The ability of a pesticide to injure a human or animal when taken by mouth.
- ORGANOPHOSPHATES** A large group of pesticides that contain the element phosphorus. Most are nonpersistent insecticides, miticides, and nematicides. Many are highly toxic. Examples include malathion, parathion, diazinon, and chlorpyrifos.
- ORIFICE** A precisely sized opening in a spray nozzle.
- OVICIDE** A material that destroys eggs.
- OXIDIZER** A highly reactive chemical that is potentially explosive and a fire hazard under certain conditions.
- PARASITE** A plant, animal, or microorganism living in, on, or with another living organism from which it obtains all or part of its food.
- PARTICLE DRIFT** The airborne movement of particles such as pesticide dusts and pesticide-contaminated soil from the application site.
- PARTICULATE** A particle of solid or liquid matter.
- PARTICULATE FILTER** See **FILTER (PARTICULATE)**.
- PARTICULATE MATTER** A suspension of fine solid or liquid particles in air, such as dust, fog, fume, mist, smoke, or sprays. Particulate matter suspended in air is commonly known as an aerosol.
- PARTS PER BILLION (PPB)** A way of expressing amounts of chemicals in or on food, plants, animals, water, soil, or air. One part per billion equals 1 pound in 500,000 tons.
- PARTS PER MILLION (PPM)** See **PARTS PER BILLION**. One part per million equals 1 pound in 500 tons.
- PATHOGEN** A disease-causing organism.
- PELLET** A pesticide formulation consisting of dry active and inert ingredients pressed into a uniformly sized and shaped ready-to-use material. Pellets are larger than granules.
- PENETRANT** An adjuvant added to a spray mixture to enhance the absorption of a pesticide.
- PERCOLATION** The downward movement of water through soil.

- PERENNIAL** A plant that lives for more than two years.
- PERMEABILITY** The ease with which water and dissolved pesticides can flow through porous materials, such as soil, gravel, or sand.
- PERSISTENCE** The amount of time that a pesticide remains active to control pests.
- PERSISTENT PESTICIDE** A pesticide chemical (or its metabolites) that remains active in the environment more than one growing season. Some compounds can accumulate in animal and plant tissues or remain in the soil for years.
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)** When specified on a pesticide label, PPE is legally defined as “devices and apparel that are worn to protect the body from contact with pesticides or pesticide residues, including, but not limited to, coveralls, chemical-resistant suits, chemical-resistant gloves, chemical-resistant footwear, respiratory protection devices, chemical-resistant aprons, chemical-resistant headgear, and protective eyewear” [U.S. EPA. 40 CFR 170.240 Personal protective equipment].
- PEST** An undesirable organism (e.g., insect, bacterium, fungus, nematode, weed, virus, or rodent) that injures or harms humans, desirable plants or animals, manufactured products, or natural products.
- PESTICIDE** Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any pest. Also, any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant.
- PESTICIDE CONCENTRATE** A pesticide formulation before it is diluted.
- PESTICIDE CONTAINMENT PAD** See **CONTAINMENT PAD**.
- PESTICIDE HANDLER** A person who works directly with pesticides, such as during mixing, loading, transporting, cleaning, storing, disposing, and applying, or who repairs pesticide application equipment.
- PESTICIDE LABEL** See **LABEL**.
- PESTICIDE RESISTANCE** The ability of an insect, fungus, weed, rodent, or other pest to tolerate a pesticide that once controlled it.
- pH** A measure of acidity and alkalinity; acid below pH7, basic or alkaline above pH7.
- PHEROMONE** A substance emitted by an animal to influence the behavior of other animals of the same species. Some are synthetically produced for use in insect traps.
- PHOTODEGRADATION** Breakdown of a chemical by sunlight.
- PHYSICAL INCOMPATIBILITY** The failure of pesticide products to stay uniformly mixed in a spray tank.
- PHYTOTOXICITY** Chemical injury to plants.
- PISCICIDE** A chemical used to control pest fish.
- PLACARDS** Diamond-shaped warning signs placed on all vehicles that transport certain types and quantities of hazardous materials, as required by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR (PGR)** A pesticide used to regulate or alter the normal growth of plants or the development of their parts.
- POINT OF RUNOFF** When a spray starts to run or drip from the leaves and stems of plants, or the hair or feathers of animals.
- POINT-SOURCE POLLUTION** The contamination of water and soil from a specific, identifiable place or location, such as a spill site or a permanent mixing, loading, and cleaning site.
- POISON CONTROL CENTER** An agency (generally a hospital) that provides current information on proper first aid techniques and antidotes for poisoning emergencies.
- POSTEMERGENCE HERBICIDE** A pesticide that is applied after the weed or crop plants have appeared through the soil. Usually used to specify the timing of herbicide applications.
- POWERED AIR-PURIFYING RESPIRATOR (PAPR)** A safety device that uses a blower to force contaminants through purifying elements.
- PRECIPITATE** A solid substance that forms in a liquid and settles to the bottom of a container; a material that no longer remains in suspension.
- PREDACIDE** A pesticide used to control predaceous animals, usually mammals.
- PREDATOR** An animal that attacks, kills, and feeds on other animals. Examples include bears, wolves, coyotes, hawks, owls, snakes, fish, spiders, and many insects and mites.
- PREEMERGENCE HERBICIDE** A pesticide that is applied before the weed or crop plants have appeared through the soil. Usually used to specify the timing of herbicide applications.

- PREHARVEST INTERVAL** See **DAYS TO HARVEST**.
- PREMIX** A pesticide product formulated by the manufacturer with more than one active ingredient.
- PREPLANT PESTICIDE** A pest control product applied before planting a crop.
- PRESLAUGHTER INTERVAL** See **DAYS TO SLAUGHTER**.
- PRESSURE RINSE** The process of decontaminating an empty pesticide container with water by using a special high-pressure nozzle to rinse the container.
- PRIVATE APPLICATOR** A certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of restricted-use pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on his or her own land, leased land, or rented land or on the lands of his or her employer.
- PROPELLANT** The inert ingredient in self-pressurized products that forces the active ingredient from the container.
- PROTECTANT** A pesticide applied to a plant or animal before infection or attack by a pest to prevent infection or injury by the pest.
- PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT** See **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**.
- PUMP** A device that moves liquid pesticide through hoses and out of the spraying system.
- PUPA** A developmental stage of insects that undergo complete metamorphosis that occurs between the larva and the adult.
- PYRETHROID** A synthetic insecticide that mimics pyrethrin, a naturally occurring pesticide derived from certain species of chrysanthemum flowers.
- QUARANTINE** A regulatory method to prevent the introduction and dissemination of plant and animal pests into new areas. Involves inspections, treatments, and destruction of contaminated plants and animals or their parts.
- RATE OF APPLICATION** The amount of pesticide applied to a plant, animal, unit area, or surface. It is usually expressed as per acre or per 1,000 square feet, linear feet, or cubic feet.
- READY-TO-USE (RTU)** Low-concentrate formulations that require no further dilution before application.
- REGISTERED PESTICIDES** Pest control products that have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the uses listed on the label.
- REPELLENT** A compound that keeps insects, rodents, birds, or other pests away from plants, domestic animals, buildings, or other treated areas.
- REGISTRATION REVIEW** An EPA program that periodically reevaluates pesticides to ensure that products currently sold are safe to use.
- REREGISTRATION** An EPA program to review older pesticides (registered before November 1984) to ensure that they meet current scientific and regulatory standards.
- RESIDUAL PESTICIDE** A pest control product that remains effective on a treated surface or area for an extended period following application.
- RESIDUE** The pesticide active ingredient or its breakdown product(s) that remain in or on the target site or in the environment after treatment. Pesticide residues may be on treated crops, feed products, or livestock that are moved from the treatment site.
- RESISTANT** A characteristic of some organisms that are uninjured or unaffected by a certain dosage of pesticide chemical used to successfully control other populations of the same organism. Also, plants and/or animals that are unaffected by a pest species.
- RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (RCRA)** The federal law regulating the transport, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes.
- RESPIRATOR** A safety device that covers at least the mouth and nose and that protects the wearer from inhaling hazardous substances, including pesticides.
- RESTRICTED-ENTRY INTERVAL (REI)** The amount of time that must elapse between treatment of a crop and the time when a person can reenter and handle the crop without wearing protective clothing and equipment or receiving early-entry training. (Also called **REENTRY INTERVAL**.)
- RESTRICTED-USE PESTICIDE** A pest control product that can be purchased only by certified pesticide applicators and used only by certified applicators or persons under their direct supervision. Not available for use by the public because of high toxicities and/or environmental hazards.
- RINSATE** A liquid obtained from rinsing pesticide containers and application equipment.
- RODENTICIDE** A chemical used to control rodents.
- ROPE-WICK (WIPER) TREATMENT** A pesticide that is released onto a device that is wiped onto weeds taller than the crop, or wiped selectively onto individual weeds.

- ROTARY SPREADER** A common type of granular applicator that distributes granules to the front and sides of the spreader, usually by means of a spinning disk or fan.
- RUNOFF** The movement of water and associated materials on the soil surface.
- SAFENER** An adjuvant used to reduce the phytotoxic effects of a pesticide.
- SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)** An information sheet available from the manufacturer that provides details on chemical properties, toxicity, first aid, hazards, personal protective equipment, and emergency procedures to be followed in the event of a spill, leak, fire, or transportation crisis. Formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheet.
- SAPROPHYTE** An organism that obtains its food from dead or decaying organic matter.
- SATURATED ZONE** The layer of soil, sand, gravel, or fractured bedrock in which all available spaces are filled with water.
- SECONDARY PEST** An organism that may become a serious problem when a key pest or natural enemy is controlled or eliminated.
- SECONDARY POISONING** Harmful effects to a predatory bird or mammal that feeds on an animal killed by a pesticide.
- SECTION 3 REGISTRATION** A standard federal (EPA) registration. Most pesticides are registered this way and contain an official EPA registration number.
- SEED PROTECTANT** A pesticide applied to seeds before planting to protect them from insects, fungi, and other soil pests.
- SELECTIVE PESTICIDE** A pest control product that is toxic to some pests but has little or no effect on other, similar species. Examples include some fungicides that control only powdery mildews and no other fungi.
- SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)** A type of atmosphere-supplying respirator where the user carries a supply of breathable air. A pressure-demand SCBA is required when the environment is immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH).
- SERVICE CONTAINER** A receptacle designed to hold concentrate or diluted pesticide mixtures; not the original pesticide container.
- SHelf LIFE** The maximum amount of time that a pesticide concentrate can remain in storage before losing some of its effectiveness.
- SIGNAL WORDS** Terms that must appear on every pesticide label to denote the relative acute toxicity of the product. The signal words are DANGER—POISON used with a skull and crossbones symbol for potentially lethal products, DANGER for severe skin and eye damage, WARNING for moderately toxic, and CAUTION for slightly toxic compounds.
- SILVICIDE** An herbicide used to destroy brush and trees.
- SITE** The crop, animal, structure, commodity, or area where a pesticide is applied.
- SITE OF ACTION** The biochemical site/process within the pest with which the pesticide interacts and disrupts functions.
- SLURRY** A thick suspension of a pesticide made from a wettable powder and water.
- SOIL APPLICATION** A pesticide applied directly on or in the soil instead of on a growing plant.
- SOIL DRENCH** To soak or wet the ground surface with a pesticide. Large volumes of the pesticide mixture are usually needed to saturate the soil to any depth.
- SOIL INCORPORATION** The movement of a pesticide into soil by either mechanical means or irrigation.
- SOIL INJECTION** The placement of a pesticide below the surface of the soil. This is a common application method for fumigants and termiticides.
- SOIL RESIDUAL PESTICIDE** A chemical or agent that prevents the growth of all organisms present in the soil; a nonselective pesticide. Soil persistence may be temporary or permanent, depending on the chemical.
- SOLUBILITY** The ability of a chemical such as a pesticide to dissolve in a solvent, usually water.
- SOLUBLE POWDER** A finely ground dry pesticide formulation that will dissolve in water or some other liquid carrier.
- SOLUTION** A mixture of one or more substances in another substance (usually a liquid) in which all the ingredients are completely dissolved. An example is sugar in water.
- SOLVENT** A liquid such as water, oil, or alcohol that will dissolve another substance (solid, liquid, or gas) to form a solution.
- SPACE SPRAY** A pesticide applied as a fine spray or mist to a confined area.

SPACE TREATMENT See **SPACE SPRAY**.

SPECIAL LOCAL NEED (SLN) REGISTRATION A Section 24(c) registration allows states to expand or limit the uses of certain registered pesticides within their jurisdictions.

SPORE The reproductive unit of a fungus. A spore is analogous to a plant seed.

SPOT TREATMENT An application to a small, localized area where pests are found.

SPRAY DEPOSIT The amount of pesticide chemical that remains on a sprayed surface after the droplets have dried.

SPRAY DRIFT The off-target movement of a pesticide during a liquid application.

SPREADER An adjuvant used to enhance the spread of a pesticide over a treated surface, thus improving the coverage.

STABILITY The ability of a chemical such as a pesticide to resist breaking down into metabolites. A highly stable pesticide can be stored for long periods without loss of activity.

STATE LEAD AGENCY (SLA) The agency within a state or territory designated by EPA as having the authority to carry out the provisions of FIFRA.

STERILANT A pesticide that prevents pests from reproducing.

STICKER An adjuvant used to improve the adherence of spray droplets to a plant, animal, or other treated surface.

STOMACH POISON A pesticide that must be eaten by an animal to be effective (does not kill on contact).

STRUCTURAL PESTS Organisms that attack and destroy buildings and other structures, clothing, stored food, and manufactured or processed goods. Examples include termites, cockroaches, clothes moths, rats, and dry-rot fungi.

SUMMER ANNUAL Plant that germinates in the spring or summer and completes its life cycle within one year.

SUPPLEMENTAL LABELING EPA-approved written, printed, or graphic material supplied by the pesticide manufacturer that provides additional product information not present on the container label. The additional information may include new application sites and rates, safety guidelines, Worker Protection Standard and PPE requirements, and endangered species advisories.

SUPPLIED-AIR (AIRLINE) RESPIRATOR A type of atmosphere-supplying respirator with a facepiece that delivers air through an air hose connected to a compressor, blower, or compressed-air tank. The air supply is not designed to be carried by the user.

SURFACTANT An inert ingredient that improves the spreading, dispersing, and/or wetting properties of a pesticide mixture.

SUSCEPTIBLE The degree to which a plant, animal, or site is affected by a pest. Also refers to pest populations that can be controlled by pesticides.

SUSPENSION A pesticide mixture consisting of fine particles dispersed or floating in a liquid, usually water or oil. Examples include wettable powders or flowables in water.

SWATH The width of the area covered by one sweep of an airplane, ground sprayer, spreader, or duster.

SYMPTOM Any detectable change in an organism resulting from the activities of a pathogen or other pest. Also, an indication of pesticide poisoning in humans and other animals.

SYNERGISM The effect of two or more pesticides applied together that is greater than the sum of the individual pesticides applied separately. Here is an example: say Pesticide X kills 40% of an insect population and Pesticide Y kills 20%. When applied together, X and Y kill 95%.

SYSTEMIC EFFECTS Poisoning effects that occur at sites other than the entry point into the body.

SYSTEMIC PESTICIDE A chemical that is absorbed and translocated within a plant or animal.

TANK A part of a sprayer that holds the finished spray mix.

TANK MIX A mixture of two or more crop-production products in a spray tank.

TARGET The plants, animals, structures, areas, or pests to which the control method is directed.

TECHNICAL MATERIAL The pesticide active ingredient in pure form as it is manufactured by a chemical company. It is usually combined with inert ingredients or additives in formulations such as wettable powders, dusts, emulsifiable concentrates, or granules.

- TEMPERATURE INVERSION** A weather-related event that occurs when cool air is trapped near the surface under a layer of warm air. Under these conditions very little vertical mixing of air occurs. Small spray droplets or vapors may remain suspended in the cool air layer for long periods and move with any airflow. Damage from spray drift often occurs under such conditions.
- TERATOGEN** A substance or agent able to produce abnormalities or defects in living human or animal embryos and fetuses. These defects are not usually inheritable.
- TERMITICIDE** An insecticide used to control termites.
- THICKENER** A drift control adjuvant, such as cellulose or gel, used to promote the formation of a greater proportion of large droplets in a spray mixture.
- THREATENED SPECIES** Organisms (plants or animals) likely to become endangered.
- TIGHT-FITTING FACEPIECE** See **FACEPIECE (TIGHT-FITTING)**.
- TOLERANCE** The maximum amount of a pesticide residue that may legally remain on or in food or feed commodities at harvest or slaughter. Established by EPA for each crop and every pesticide used on a specific crop.
- TOLERANT** A characteristic of organisms (including pests) that are able to withstand a certain degree of stress, such as weather, pesticides, or attack by a pest.
- TOXIC** Poisonous to living organisms.
- TOXICANT** A poisonous substance, such as the active ingredient in a pesticide formulation.
- TOXICITY** The degree or extent to which a chemical or substance is poisonous.
- TOXICOLOGY** The study of the effects of toxic substances on living organisms.
- TOXIN** A naturally occurring poison produced by plants, animals, or microorganisms. Examples include the poison produced by the black widow spider, the venom produced by snakes, and the botulism toxin.
- TRADE NAME** A brand name that is registered as a trademark by the manufacturer.
- TRANSLOCATION** The movement of materials within a plant or animal from the site of entry. A systemic pesticide is translocated.
- TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PLAN** A plan required of all operations that transport pesticides in containers that are larger than 119 gallons or in quantities greater than 1,000 pounds. The U.S. Department of Transportation requires the plan to include protection against unauthorized access, a security check for employees that pick up and transport placarded hazardous materials, and a security plan for the intended travel route. Vehicles that transport pesticides in these quantities must be placarded.
- TREE INJECTION** The placement of a pesticide under the bark of trees.
- TRIPLE RINSE** The process of decontaminating an empty pesticide container by partially filling it with water, replacing the lid, shaking the container, and then pouring the rinsate into the spray tank. This process is performed three times.
- ULTRA-LOW VOLUME (ULV)** Sprays that are applied at 0.5 gallon or less per acre, often as an undiluted formulation.
- UNCLASSIFIED-USE PESTICIDES** Pest control products that are often referred to as general-use pesticides. They can be bought and used by the public without special permits or restrictions.
- USER SEAL CHECK** For tight-fitting respirators, a check performed by the wearer to ensure that the mask has been put on correctly and adjusted to fit properly. This check is necessary each time these respirators are worn.
- VAPOR DRIFT** The movement of chemical vapors from the application site. Like pesticide spray drift, vapor drift can injure nontarget plants or animals.
- VAPOR PRESSURE** The property that causes a chemical to evaporate. The higher the vapor pressure, the more volatile the chemical—and the more easily it will evaporate.
- VECTOR** An animal (e.g., insect, nematode, or mite) or plant (e.g., dodder) that can carry and transmit a pathogen from one host to another.
- VERTEBRATE** An animal characterized by a segmented backbone or spinal column.
- VIRUS** Ultramicroscopic parasite. Viruses can multiply only in living tissues and cause many animal and plant diseases.
- VOLATILITY/VOLATILE** The degree to which a substance changes from a liquid or solid state to a gas at ordinary temperatures when exposed to air.

WARNING The signal word associated with pesticide products classified as moderately toxic. These pesticides have an oral LD₅₀ between 50 and 500mg/kg or a dermal LD₅₀ between 200 and 2,000mg/kg.

WATER-DISPERSIBLE GRANULE A dry, granular formulation that breaks apart and disperses to form a suspension when added to water.

WATER-SOLUBLE BAG See **WATER-SOLUBLE PACKET/PACKAGING**.

WATER-SOLUBLE CONCENTRATE A liquid pesticide formulation that dissolves in water to form a true solution.

WATER-SOLUBLE PACKET/PACKAGING Wettable powder or soluble powder formulation packaged in a special type of plastic bag that dissolves and releases its contents when placed in water.

WATER TABLE The boundary between the overlying unsaturated rock or soil and the saturated zone.

WATERPROOF As specified by the pesticide product label, PPE that is “made of material that allows no measurable movement of water or aqueous solutions through the material during use” [U.S. EPA. 40 CFR 170.240 Personal protective equipment].

WEED A plant growing where it is not wanted or where it is in direct conflict with the well-being of humans and their activities.

WETTABLE POWDER A dry pesticide formulation in powder form that forms a suspension when added to water.

WETTING AGENT An adjuvant used to reduce the surface tension between a liquid and the contact surface for more thorough coverage.

WINTER ANNUAL Plant that germinates in the fall or winter and completes its life cycle within one year.

WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS) A federal regulation that is meant to reduce the risk of pesticide poisoning and injuries among agricultural workers and handlers. The WPS requires agricultural employers to provide protections to workers and handlers, including but not limited to safety training, posting of application sites, and decontamination supplies.

