



OREGON CANNABIS

Cannabis and Pesticides



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Pesticides Program
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What is a pesticide?

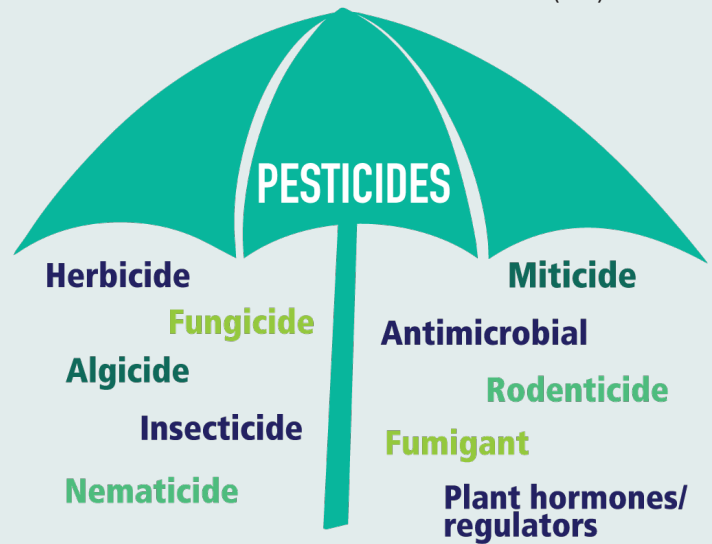
- Anything that kills, repels, or mitigates a pest
- Includes plant growth hormones/regulators

What is an active ingredient?

The chemical in a pesticide product that does the killing, repelling, or mitigating is the active ingredient.

What is a tolerance?

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets limits on the amount of pesticides that may remain in or on food. These limits on pesticides left on foods are called "tolerances." There are no tolerances for cannabis. <https://oda.fyi/NPICtolerance>



What pesticides can I use on cannabis?

You can use any pesticide listed on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) guide list according to label directions.

<https://oda.direct/CannabisPesticides>

Products on the list meet the following criteria:

- Exempt from a tolerance by US EPA
- Intended for unspecified food crops
- Passed a pyrolysis test

If you think you have a product that meets the criteria, but is not on the list, contact ODA's Pesticides Program and they will review the product.

**Organic and OMRI listing
DOES NOT automatically make it
approved for use on cannabis!**

**Many organic products have tolerances
established for use on food crops
and would not be on ODA's guide list for
pesticides and cannabis.**

Why are most pesticides not labeled for use on cannabis?

- Cannabis is illegal under federal law
- Risk assessments to establish a tolerance have not been completed for use on cannabis

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registers and regulates pesticides. For food crops, the EPA sets a tolerance. In order to set tolerances, the EPA completes a risk assessment, looking at the various ways we may be exposed to the pesticide. The risk assessment is also used to evaluate and approve the language that appears on pesticide labels to ensure safe use.

The State of Oregon regulates pesticide use under the Oregon Pesticide Control Act and rules established under the Act. It is a violation of state and federal law to use pesticides in a manner that is inconsistent with label directions. Because the EPA has not done any risk assessments with cannabis, Oregon is limited in what pesticides can be used legally.

Required testing: What are action levels?

All cannabis must be tested for the presence of a number of different contaminants, including pesticides. Action levels indicate a level of pesticides that, when exceeded, is considered sufficient to warrant regulatory or remedial action under Oregon cannabis regulations.

An overview of the testing rules for marijuana:

<https://oda.fyi/OHAmarijuanatesting>

An overview of the testing rules for industrial hemp:

<https://oda.direct/hemp>

Potential problems: Pesticide investigations

ODA pesticide investigations may begin because:

- Another agency makes a referral
- ODA receives a complaint
- There is a reason to believe misuse is happening

ODA may collect and analyze plant material for compliance tests, if necessary.

Action levels are NOT tolerances.

If you fail testing for an action level—

above action level—you will not be allowed to sell your product. The Oregon Liquor Commission (OLCC) or the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will refer you to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Pesticides Program.

Products must be legal for use.

Even if the result of an ODA Pesticides Program inspection test is **below** the action level—if the product is not legal for use, the crop will not be allowed to go to market. Illegal use of pesticides may also affect your license with OLCC or OHA.

Remember!

- Only use pesticides on ODA's guide list for pesticides and cannabis.
- Always follow the pesticide label directions.
- If you fail a pesticide test you will be referred to the ODA Pesticides Program for investigation under the Oregon Pesticide Control Act, ORS 634.

Questions about a label or product?

We know it is confusing – call us first! **(503) 986-4635**

We can help you understand how to use a product including things like:

- Is the product allowed for use on cannabis?
- Where can I apply the product?
- What rate do I use?

We cannot make pest-specific product recommendations.

Additional pesticide resources

National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)

NPIC provides objective, science-based information about pesticides and pesticide-related topics to enable people to make informed decisions.

<http://npic.orst.edu>

Training and licensing

It's unlikely you need a license to apply pesticides. To learn about classes being offered on pesticide application and safety, visit:

<https://oda.direct/PesticideApplicatorClasses>

Some local community colleges also offer classes.

Growers must provide Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training to their employees. You must be a licensed pesticide applicator or have completed approved specialized training in order to train workers or handlers under the WPS.

<https://oda.direct/WPS>

Oregon OSHA Consultative Services

OR-OSHA consultation services are free and confidential. Consultations in workplace safety, industrial hygiene, and ergonomics can help you reduce accidents and related costs and help you develop a comprehensive program to manage safety and health.

<http://osha.oregon.gov/consult>