



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Protect. Promote. Prosper.

Pesticides Program

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503.986.4635 | Oregon.gov/ODA

Pesticide Bulletin

Pesticide Use Reminders for Landscapers

Moss and weeds in landscaping, driveways, roofs, and gardens can be a widespread problem in the damp areas of the Pacific Northwest. It is not uncommon for people to use products that prevent growth or kill existing moss and weeds (e.g., weed and feed). Many people do not know that these types of products are classified as pesticides under state and federal law and that pesticide licensing is required before applying them commercially. Additionally, each product must be registered before being applied commercially to control moss, weeds, or other pests on a customer's property.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Pesticides Program regulates the sale, use and distribution of pesticides in Oregon. Our goal is to protect people and the environment from adverse effects of pesticide use while maintaining the availability of pesticides for beneficial uses. The main ways that we do this are through pesticide licensing, pesticide product registration, pesticide investigations, and compliance monitoring.

During pesticide investigations, we look to see whether pesticides are being used according to their labels, whether the pesticide applicator(s) are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, and whether the pesticide applicator(s) and their employer have the appropriate pesticide licensing and have kept the required records.

Individuals and businesses must be licensed by ODA before performing certain pesticide-related activities. In general, a commercial pesticide applicator license is required to apply a pesticide to a customer's property. Additionally, their employer (business) must have a commercial pesticide operator license. Commercial pesticide licenses also have license categories, which may limit or specify the type of pesticides that can be used and/or locations where pesticides can be applied.

The pesticide label must always be followed. Pesticide product labels provide critical information about how to safely and legally handle and use pesticide products. This includes information, such as mixing (dilution) rates, where and how much to apply, requirements to prevent off-target movement and protect waterways, emergency first aid instructions, and how to dispose of the empty container. Pesticide labels are lawfully enforceable, and carry the statement, "It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." **In other words, the label is the law.**

Para ver este informe en español: <https://oda.direct/Pesticide-Bulletin-SPA-020625>

More information on licensing can be found on our newly updated website at <https://oda.direct/PesticideLicensing>

For more information about pesticides and to search for registered pesticide products, go to <https://oda.direct/SearchRegisteredPesticides>

If you have any questions or concerns about pesticides, please contact the ODA Pesticides Program at 503-986-4635 or pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov. If you would like to discuss this topic and need a free language interpreter present, call 503-986-4635 to make arrangements or email (pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov) with your name, requested language, phone number and best time to call. Para ayuda en español, llame al 503-986-4550 para dejar un mensaje de voz y alguien le regresará la llamada.