

E.M. 2805
May, 1967

insect answers



INSECTICIDE TOXICITY TO HONEY BEES

Bee poisoning, the destruction of honey bees by insecticides applied for crop pest control, has become a serious problem in recent years. It is particularly damaging on tree fruit, small fruit, cucurbit, vegetable seed, and clover seed crops which are dependent upon honey bees for pollination. The various chemicals are classified as to their hazard to bees and proper conditions of use as follows:

Hazardous to bees at any time on blooming crops--

Aldrin	Guthion
Azodrin	Heptachlor
Banol	Imidan
Baygon	Lead Arsenate
Baytex	Lindane & BHC
Bidrin	Malathion dust
Bomyl	Matacil
Calcium Arsenate	Metacide
Chlordane	Methyl Parathion
Cryolite	Methyl Trithion
Cygon	Parathion
Dasanit	Phosphamidon
Diazinon	Phosdrin
Dibrom dust	Sevin
Dieldrin	Telodrin
DNOSBP	Vapona
EPN	Zectran
Ethyl-methyl Guthion	

Not hazardous if applied in late evening after bees have quit foraging, except during periods of high temperature in late evening--

Dibrom WP	Thimet EC
Malathion EC	

Not hazardous if applied in either evening or early morning when bees are not foraging, except during periods of high temperature in these times--

Abate	Nemacide
DDT	NPD
Delnav	Perthane
Dibrom EC	Phostex
Dieldrin G	Rhothane (TDE)
Dilan	Systox
Di-Syston	TEPP
Dylox	Thimet G
Endrin	Thiocron
Ethion	Thiodan
Heptachlor G	Toxaphene
Menazon	Toxaphene + DDT
Methoxychlor	Tranid
Meta-Systox-R	Trithion
Morocide	

Not hazardous to bees at any time on blooming crops--

Allethrin	Mitox
Aramite	Morestan
Baygon G	Neotran
Chlorobenzilate	Nicotine
Chloroprophyllate	Nissol
Dasanit G	Omite
Dessin	Ovex
Dimite	Pentac
DN-111	Pyrethrum
Fenson	Rotenone
Genite 923	Ryania
Karathane	Schradan
Kelthane	Sevin G
Kepone	Sodium Fluosilicate bait
Lime-sulfur	Sulfur
Malathion G	Sulphenone
Micasin	Tedion
Milbex	Temik G
Mirex	

3. Apply certain moderate hazard or short residual insecticides only when bees are not foraging.
4. Use relatively nonhazardous insecticides whenever possible.
5. Choose the less hazardous types of insecticide formulations whenever possible.
6. Establish holding yards of honey bee colonies at least 3 miles from orchards or fields.
7. Contact the beekeeper to remove honey bee colonies from the area, if feasible.
8. Observe regulations of the Washington State Department of Agriculture which restrict the use of chemicals hazardous to bees on certain blooming crops.

General Precautions

1. Do not apply insecticides which have a long residual toxicity to bees on blooming crops.
2. Mow or beat down orchard cover crop blooms before applying insecticides.

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Use pesticides with care. Read the label on the container and follow the directions carefully.



Never smoke while applying insecticides and avoid breathing the spray or dust. Wear natural rubber gloves when handling pesticides. Wash hands and face carefully with soap and water after applying. If insecticides are spilled on the skin or clothing, remove contaminated clothing and wash exposed skin areas thoroughly.

Always store pesticides in their original containers, never in fruit jars or soft drink bottles, and be sure that labels remain on the original containers. Keep containers away from food or animal feed and out of the reach of children or irresponsible persons.