

UF/IFAS Extension Hendry County

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Pesticide Labeling

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In Florida, pest problems may occur year-round and a pesticide will often be selected as part of an integrated management program to attack the problem. If a pesticide will be part of the management plan, understanding the contents of the pesticide label is essential for the product's safe and effective use.

The pesticide label contains a tremendous amount of information and will tell you how to correctly use the pesticide. The label, when properly followed, provides protection for applicators, consumers and the environment.

After you read this article, you should be able to:

- Interpret the terms “label” and “labeling.”
- Identify the meaning of “Restricted Use” classification and explain where to look for it on pesticide labeling.
- Distinguish among the terms “common name,” “chemical name,” and “brand name” and know which to use to most accurately identify a pesticide product.
- Interpret the signal words (and symbols) on pesticide labeling.
- Know the types of hazard precautionary statements on pesticide labeling.
- Interpret the statement “It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.”
- Explain the pesticide user's responsibility to follow use directions and requirements contained in separate documents that, although referenced on the labeling, do not necessarily accompany the product at the time of purchase.
- Ensure the product is the correct one for the job.
- Mix the pesticide to ensure the proper concentration.

Be sure to completely read all labels for every pesticide you use and remember “The label is the law.”