

BMP 8

Application of Pesticides

Purpose

Use of pesticides should be managed in a way that prevents toxicity problems and protects human health and the quality of nearby bodies of water.

Definitions

Pesticides, including **insecticides**, **herbicides**, **fungicides**, **rodenticides**, and **nematocides**, are used to destroy, prevent, or control woody or herbaceous vegetation and forest pests on forested lands or areas being reforested. They can be used on forest lands to control insect infestations, undesirable woody and herbaceous growth, and plant diseases. This is primarily associated with reforestation and timber stand improvement.

Specifications

The Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972 set general and specific standards concerning use of pesticides. As of October 21, 1977, all pesticides are classified for “general” or “restricted” use. Restricted pesticides can be used only by or under supervision of certified applicators. Pesticide users need to be familiar with this law and its regulations pertaining to certification and proper use of pesticides. For further information contact the local county Extension agent or personnel with the Division of Pesticides in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, Kentucky. Pesticides used improperly can be injurious to humans, animals, plants, fish, and aquatic life.

- **Precisely follow all label directions** and heed all precautions on the labels. Pay close attention to label toxicity information for water-related concerns. Use only those pesticides labeled for forestry use, and be sure that intended use is in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations.
- **Use of pesticides in SMZs or within 30 feet of the bottom of a sinkhole** or any noticeable ground opening is generally undesirable.
- **Do not dump excess spray material anywhere.** Excess spray material should be used according to label directions, or disposal should be according to disposal regulations. Minimize the amount of pesticide needing disposal by correctly mixing the proper amount.
- **Do not clean spray equipment or dump excess spray materials near ponds, streams, or wells.** Because it is difficult to remove all traces of herbicides from equipment, do not use the same equipment for insecticides or fungicides that is used for herbicides. Triple rinse empty pesticide containers. Pour rinse liquid into the sprayer and spray on target. Puncture the rinsed container so that it can not be reused. Dispose of empty, rinsed, pesticide containers at an approved sanitary landfill.
- **Do not dispose of containers** or unused pesticide where there is any chance that the material can eventually cause surface or ground water contamination.
- **Do not clean equipment** or dump excess materials near bodies of water.
- **Remove empty containers** from the woods and dispose of them properly (see BMP No. 5).

When storing pesticides, make sure there is adequate ventilation. Adequate lighting will also ensure that labels can be read. Absorbent material should be on hand to absorb spills that can accidentally occur.

Develop an emergency plan. Know what you will do in the event of an accident and be prepared to do it!

Regulatory Requirements for BMP No. 8

(See Appendix A for explanations)

- Application of pesticides: (may require certification and/or licensing)
- All silvicultural operations: (410 KAR 5:026, 5:029, 5:030, and 5:031)
- Activities near high-quality waters and outstanding national resources waters: (401 KAR 5:029, 5:030, and 5:031)
- Activities near wild rivers: (KRS 146.200 *et seq.* and 401 KAR 4:100-140)

Summary: AWQA Minimum Requirements for BMP No. 8

The producer should:

- follow label directions.
- not clean equipment or dump excess materials near bodies of water.
- remove empty containers from the woods and dispose of them properly.
- avoid using pesticides in SMZs or within 30 feet of any noticeable sinkhole opening.