
WARNING TO THOSE PLANNING TO USE 2,4-D WEED KILLERS

Committee on Safe Usage of 2,4-D

Extreme care should be taken in using 2,4-D weed killers as this chemical will kill or injure many valuable crop and garden plants as well as many weeds.

As a result of the damage to cotton last year from 2,4-D used in nearby rice fields, Director R. D. Lewis of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station recently asked a committee of research workers, extension personnel, growers and chemical manufacturers to take steps toward the prevention of such losses recurring this year.

From recent research findings and experiences, this committee drew up the following precautions at a meeting held in Houston on April 2, 1948:

Precautions in the Use of 2,4-D Weed-killing Compounds

1. The application of 2,4-D in dust form is not recommended because it may drift several miles onto susceptible plants.
2. Even in liquid sprays, 2,4-D may drift dangerously if applied in wind or with faulty equipment.
3. 2,4-D should not be stored in any building in which seeds, fertilizer, fungicides or insecticides are stored or handled because of the danger of contamination.
4. Check spray equipment carefully - faulty application is costly.
5. Use a separate sprayer for 2,4-D. It is very difficult to clean 2,4-D from a sprayer used for applying fungicides or insecticides.
6. For ground sprayers use pressures below 75 pounds per square inch. Nozzles producing coarse sprays are most desirable.
7. For airplane spraying, it is tentatively suggested that sprays should not be used closer than 1/2 mile to susceptible crops downwind, nor in a wind velocity of more than 3 miles-per-hour.
8. Employ only qualified, licensed airplane operators who have non-leaky equipment and who will apply the spray only when condition No. 7 is met.
9. Esters evaporate quicker than other forms of 2,4-D and damage from fumes is more likely to occur when this form of the chemical is used.
10. Prevent drifting of spray or fumes onto such sensitive plants as tomatoes, cotton, okra; vine crops such as cucumbers, sweet potatoes, etc.; legumes such as blackeyed peas, snapbeans, etc.; fruit trees, pecan trees, and many ornamentals.
11. Consult your county agent or other competent authority as to the best stage of growth and correct dosage for use with any specific crop. Do not overdose. Even rice may be damaged by applications made too early or too late.

(See Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Progress Report No. 1115, March 29, 1948 "Experiments with 2,4-D for Controlling Weeds in Rice Fields in Southeastern Texas in 1947")