Use of Pesticides on Hemp
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a pesticide?
A: A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, kill, repel, or mitigate a pest. Plant growth regulators or growth hormones are also considered pesticides. Examples of pesticides include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, plant growth regulators, disinfectants, and insect repellents.

Q: What is an active ingredient?
A: A pesticide active ingredient is the chemical in a pesticide that does the killing, repelling, mitigating or growth regulation.

Q: How do I know if a pesticide can be applied to hemp in Michigan?
A: You should only use pesticides appearing on the Michigan Hemp Pesticide List. Pesticides appearing on this list have been reviewed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to ensure they can legally be used on hemp grown in Michigan.

Q: What if I want to use a pesticide that is not on the Michigan Hemp Pesticide List?
A: You should only use the pesticides appearing on the Michigan Hemp Pesticide List. These pesticides have gone through a review process to ensure they can legally be used on hemp. If you have a question about a pesticide not on the list, please contact MDARD-Pesticide@michigan.gov.

Q: How does a pesticide get added to the list?
A: To appear on the Michigan Hemp Pesticide List, the pesticide must be registered with MDARD and must be labeled for use on hemp. To have a product evaluated, complete the Cannabis Pesticide Evaluation Form and email form, along with a copy of the product label, to MDARD-Pesticide@michigan.gov.

Q: How can I find out which pesticides are registered in Michigan?
A: You can search for pesticides currently registered in Michigan at www.michigan.gov/mdard/licensing/pesticide/pestregistration.

Q: Do I need to be certified to apply pesticides to hemp in Michigan?
A: Maybe. If you are applying general use pesticides to hemp for a private agricultural purpose, no certification is required. However, if you apply restricted use pesticides (RUPs) to hemp for a private agricultural purpose, private pesticide applicator certification would be required. RUPs are not available for purchase or use by the public due to the potential to cause unreasonable adverse effects to the environment or human health. More information on restricted use pesticides can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdard/licensing/pesticide/rup.

Additionally, if you apply any pesticides commercially to hemp, commercial pesticide applicator certification would be required as well as a pesticide applicator business license. More information on pesticide applicator certification and business licensing requirements can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdardpest.

Q: Do Federal Worker Protection Standards requirements apply if I use a pesticide on hemp in Michigan?
A: Yes. Hemp is considered an agricultural commodity in Michigan. If you apply a pesticide containing Agricultural Use Requirements on the label (example below), compliance with Federal Worker Protection Standards is required.

AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170. This Standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification, and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment (PPE) and restricted-entry interval. The requirements in this box only apply to uses of this product that are covered by the Worker Protection Standard.

Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval (REI) of 12 hours.

Exception: if the product is soil-injected or soil incorporated, the Worker Protection Standard, under certain circumstances, allows workers to enter the treated area if there will there will be no contact with anything that has been treated.

PPE required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil, or water, is:

- Coveralls,
- Chemical-resistant gloves such as any waterproof material, and
- Shoes plus socks.

More information about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Worker Protection Standard requirements can be found at www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/agricultural-worker-protection-standard-wps.

Q: What are pesticide label requirements, and why do I need to follow them?
A: The EPA conducts detailed research to determine whether a pesticide is appropriate for the uses outlined on the pesticide product label. The pesticide label provides critical information about how to handle and safely use the pesticide product and avoid harm to human health and the environment. All pesticide products must be used in a manner consistent with the product labeling. Whether the product is an EPA registered pesticide or a minimum risk state registered pesticide, the “label is the law” when it comes to legal use.

Q: How do I know what personal protective equipment (PPE) I need to wear when applying pesticides to hemp?
A: The pesticide label provides information on how to safely handle and apply a pesticide, including PPE requirements.

Q: Where can I find more information about requirements for hemp growers?
A: MDARD regulates hemp growers in Michigan, including grower registration and sampling/testing of samples. Information on requirements for growing industrial hemp can be found at www.michigan.gov/hempgrowing.

Q: Where can I find more information about requirements to process hemp in Michigan?
A: The Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) regulates hemp processors in Michigan, including licensing of the distribution and sales of hemp. Information on requirements for processing industrial hemp can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/hempprocessing.