

Best Management Practices Guide for Reducing Risk Of Herbicide Drift & Plant Overexposure in Greenhouses

Questions to ask before herbicide applications in a greenhouse setting.

- 1) Do I know my product label?
 - ✓ Active ingredient and rate of application
 - ✓ Mode of action
 - ✓ Volatility
 - ✓ Restricted Entry Interval (REI)

- 2) Do I have favorable conditions to spray?
 - ✓ Empty greenhouse if required by label
 - ✓ Ventilation/horizontal air flow fans off
 - ✓ Growth lights off
 - ✓ Moderate temperature
 - ✓ Correct posting
 - ✓ Proper equipment (sprayer, nozzles, etc.)
 - ✓ If desirable plants are present, what is their sensitivity and are they protected?

- 3) While applying what should I be concerned about to avoid drift/over-exposure?
 - ✓ Droplet size (too fine may cause drift)
 - ✓ Correct spray pressure (reducing pressure increases droplet size)
 - ✓ Control temperature to avoid conditions favoring volatilization

- 4) What steps should I take after application to avoid or reduce herbicide volatilization and off-target exposure?
 - ✓ Turn on ventilation fans (after REI)
 - ✓ Wash down growing areas and benches to avoid residues (after REI)
 - ✓ Wash condensate off glass or plastic coverings (after REI)
 - ✓ Avoid washing herbicides off target plants

- 5) What steps should I take if my plants are accidentally exposed to herbicides?
 - ✓ Immediately wash exposed plant with water
 - ✓ If feasible, immediately prune off exposed portion of the plant

NOTE: This information is not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Always read the product label before applying any pesticide. Always check NYS registration status and use herbicides in accordance with the label! These guidelines were prepared for the Cornell greenhouse community to provide advice to reduce possible herbicide drift and off-target exposure.