

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN CALIFORNIA



DORMANT SPRAY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

GENERAL CROP PROTECTION PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Know Your Fields and Farm

1. Conduct your own farm site evaluation.
Use this information to develop your BMPs and plan.
2. Maintain field records:
 - a. Monitor orchards during dormant season by inspecting prunings, fruit wood, tree crevices and loose bark on older trees for the presence of scale and peach twig borers.
 - b. Select insecticides, application rates and timing based on orchard history, insect pressure and tree size. Also consider types and populations of insects present or anticipated.
3. Use the most appropriate tillage and cultural practices for your crop and field characteristics.
4. Identify sensitive runoff areas near streams, canals, etc. and use BMPs to minimize potential contamination.
5. If you participate in a soil conservation or water quality program, follow prescribed recommendations.

Mixing and Loading

1. Ideally, mix and load agricultural chemicals and rinse equipment on an impervious surface (containment pad).
2. Mix and load pesticides and rinse equipment in the field if you don't have a containment pad. Vary the location. Stay 50 feet away from any wells (including drainage wells and abandoned wells), streams, canals, irrigation ditches or sinkholes during mixing and loading operations. Follow any additional state requirements.
3. Do not mix or load agricultural chemicals within 200 feet of public drinking water supply wells unless you're using a containment pad. Follow any additional state requirements.
4. Clean up chemical spills (even small spills) immediately. Do not let the material soak into the ground. Have spill material (cat litter, sawdust, etc.) available when mixing and loading.
5. While filling your spray tank, make sure there's a fixed air gap (air break) between the water source and the tank, or an anti-backflow device on the fill hose. During filling operations, do not allow the water to be back-siphoned. Keep the end of the fill hose above the surface of the water/chemical solution in the tank at all times.

Containers and Equipment Cleansing

1. Always start with a clean, calibrated sprayer that can provide appropriate agitation.
2. Be sure you properly dispose of rinsate. Clean containers and equipment at the application site if you do not have a containment pad. Put the rinsate in your spray tank and apply evenly over a field, or dispose of as the label specifies. Pay particular attention when cleaning the equipment. Check the pesticide label for any special instructions.
3. Rinse reusable containers immediately. Delay may result in residue drying and may become much more difficult to remove.
4. Pressure or triple rinse disposable containers immediately after emptying. Add the rinsate to your spray tank. Puncture the containers before disposing of them.
5. Participate in container recycling programs for empty disposable containers when offered in your area.
6. Properly dispose of rinsed pesticide containers that cannot be refilled or recycled. Do not burn pesticide containers.

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Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using any pesticide.