



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Agriculture

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## PESTICIDE ADVISORY

### Clopyralid in Compost/Manures



Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has found a garden soil/compost product contaminated with clopyralid (an herbicide) after investigating numerous complaints. The gardeners became concerned after plants in contact with the soil/compost showed growth deformities. ODA received the first complaint on May 15, 2020. Over the next several days similar calls were received from multiple gardeners.

Clopyralid is a type of herbicide that kills broad-leaved weeds such as dandelions, clover, and thistle. Trade names for products containing clopyralid include: Confront, Curtail, Redeem, and Stinger. Clopyralid affects only susceptible plants, which include: legumes (peas, beans, lupine), composites (sunflowers, marigolds, lettuce), nightshades (tomatoes, potatoes, peppers), and buckwheat. Clopyralid used at the labeled rate does not affect grasses, corn, berries, cole crops, tree fruit, or the vast majority of woody and perennial ornamental plants.

Clopyralid can cause symptoms in susceptible plants at very low levels and it breaks down very slowly during the composting process, especially if temperatures are not adequately high. Clopyralid can be introduced into compost facilities when treated plants are diverted into the green waste system. Pesticide labels for products containing clopyralid, clearly prohibit grass clippings and other materials from use in compost. In addition, animal manure composts may contain clopyralid if the animal fed on crops treated with clopyralid, or the bedding was grown using clopyralid.

The limitations on pesticide products containing clopyralid are listed in OAR 603-057-0378:

- (1) Any **application or use** of a pesticide product known to contain the active ingredient clopyralid **to a location other than an agricultural, forest, right-of way, golf course or cemetery site is prohibited.**
- (2) For the application or use of a pesticide product containing clopyralid on a site allowed under (1) above, all applicable label instructions must be followed. **Providing grass clippings or other materials from a treated site for use in compost is prohibited.**

Failure to comply with these rules and label restrictions may result in one or more of the following actions: civil penalty, license revocation, license suspension or refusal to issue or renew the license or certification of an applicant, licensee or certificate holder in accordance with ORS 634.322(4).

It is imperative that if you apply one of the many products containing this herbicide you follow all restrictions. If you make an application for another producer, you must inform them of the restrictions. Communication is key. If you sell a product that has been treated during the growing season (e.g. grass hay) to someone with livestock, communicate what you have used and the associated restrictions and limitations.

For additional information or questions, contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture at (503) 986-4635, or email [pestx@oda.state.or.us](mailto:pestx@oda.state.or.us)

