

Bee Kill Reminds Applicators to Read and Follow the Product Label.

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<http://www.genehanson.com/bumblebee.htm>

An aphid application in a Target parking lot in Oregon caused a large scale bumble bee kill last week. This has resulted in a 180 day moratorium of the pesticide product. Even small scale urban pesticide applications may have high costs if applicators neglect to read and follow the pesticide product label.

The MSU Pesticide Education program reminds all licensed and non-licensed pesticide applicators that the pesticide product label is the legal contract between the applicator, EPA and product manufacturer. Reading and following the pesticide product label insures protection of the applicator, others, wildlife and the environment. All pesticide applicators should remember the basics:

- Choose the correct pesticide for your application
 - Read the pesticide label prior to purchasing.
 - Remember terminology: Broad-spectrum means it will target a broad array of pests.
- Don't use more than what is indicated on the pesticide product label.
- Be aware of the products acute toxicity as indicated by the signal word (Danger, Warning, Caution). Use products with the lowest toxicity if they work equally well on the pest.
- Always purchase and use personal protective equipment (PPE) as indicated on the pesticide product label.

Applicators should spray only on non-windy days (< 10 mph) while keeping in mind all precautionary and environmental hazard warnings. The environmental hazard statement on the pesticide product label clearly outlines specific hazards the pesticide may pose (birds, aquatics, butterflies, and/or bees). For more information see the MontGuide titled "Pesticide Labels" by navigating to www.pesticides.montana.edu and selecting 'reference materials' and 'Pesticide Labels'.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For more information contact Cecil Tharp, MSU Pesticide Education Specialist (406-994-5067; ctharp@montana.edu).