

2008 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide: Worker Protection Standards¹

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The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for Agricultural Pesticides is designed to protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from exposure to pesticides. Both general use and restricted-use pesticides are covered. You will know that the product is covered by the WPS if you see the following statement in the Directions for Use Section of the pesticide label:

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, forest, 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 the label about personal protective equipment, notification of workers, and restricted-entry intervals (REI).

If you are using a pesticide product with labeling that refers to the WPS, you must comply with the WPS to avoid violation of Federal Law. (See Tables 4-7 in Fact Sheet ENY-601, Pesticides Registered for Use on Florida Citrus, for additional information.)

Agricultural employers should obtain a copy of the EPA publication, "The Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides - How to Comply" for a detailed explanation of the standard and how to comply with its requirements. It may be obtained from the IFAS Pesticide Information Office at the University of Florida, Gainesville, 352-392-4721.

We also suggest the IFAS EDIS publication, "Florida Ag Worker Safety Act" (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI078>) for additional information.

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