



Facts about Herbicide Use in Oregon's Forests

- **Herbicides used in forestry operations are some of the same types sold to homeowners for use on residential property. While pesticide use in a residential setting must abide by pesticide label safety requirements, forestry applications must follow those requirements plus additional regulations spelled out in the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Once herbicide applications occur on forestland during the first five years after planting, no additional applications will likely be needed during the projected growing life of the tree until harvest – usually 30 to 50 years, in some cases longer.**
- **Herbicides are used by farmers on croplands, by homeowners for lawn and garden care, and by state and local agencies that apply them along Oregon's roads and government properties. While use on forestland to control competing vegetation usually occurs just during the first few years after tree planting, applications in places other than forested areas tends to be yearly. Forest landowners are responsible for 4 percent of all pesticides used every year in Oregon, including herbicides.**
- **In Oregon, pesticide sellers and applicators must also comply with the state's Pesticide Control law (Oregon Revised Statute Chapter 634), which requires state product registration and applicator licensing, and prohibits faulty, careless, or negligent chemical applications. This law is administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. For pesticide applications on forestland, applicators must also comply with the chemical rules of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, administered by the Department of Forestry. The rules require operators to protect soil, air, fish, wildlife, and water quality through measures that include avoiding aerial herbicide applications within 60 feet of streams that contain fish or drinking water streams, and avoiding ground-based applications using backpack or pressurized sprayers within 10 feet of those streams. In addition, rules require leaving and protecting trees and plants along streams following logging.**
- **Streamside protection rules for non-federal forest land in Oregon were adopted in 1994. All private, state and local government forest landowners or operators conducting operations near streams, lakes or wetlands must comply with the rules.**
- **Currently, there are no regulations in Oregon requiring a buffer zone for aerial application of herbicides near specific structures or facilities, including schools. Both EPA label and state Pesticide Control Law requirements are designed to protect human health during ground and aerial application of pesticides.**