

2013 Green Gardening Workshop Track B: Organic Pesticides

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Definition of Terms

Regulations

Practical Tips



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Definition of "Pesticide"

•Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, control, repel or mitigate any insect, rodent, snail, slug, fungus, weed, and any other form of plant or animal life or virus considered to be a pest (animal and human drugs are not included)

In WA, that also includes plant regulators (but not fertilizers or soil amendments), defoliants, desiccants and adjuvants.

Ref: 40CFR152 and RCW15.58.30



Definition of "Organic"

- •A labeling term that indicates the product has been produced and handled using specific approved methods and materials. *Ref: 7CFR205.2*
- USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) sets definitions as well as production and handling standards
- Various agencies can ask USDA NOP for accreditation. Once accredited, they can "certify" products as organic
- Depending on the agency, there can be a "seal of approval"







In terms of package contents, what does "organic" mean?

- "100% organic"
- "Organic" ... must be at least 95%
- "Made with organic ingredients"...must be at least 70%
- "Organic" included in the ingredient list means it is less than 70%
 of the package contents



How do the terms relate to each other?

"Organic" only refers to the SOURCE of the material

"Pesticide" only refers to the ACTION of the material

So what is an organic pesticide?



Other important terms to know:

•25B-- products exempt from EPA regulation but not WSDA registration.

Mostly food-based active ingredients



Commercial pesticide-- used on commercial properties,

or homeowner properties by for-hire applicator

H&G pesticide-- used on a home & garden property

by the homeowner





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Pesticides must be registered in WA in order to be recommended, sold and used.

 Commercial pesticide applications (landscaping) must be done by licensed applicator.

If you don't have a pesticide applicator/consultants license, you can't recommend anything other than H&G pesticides.

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If the product has an OMRI seal or other USDA certifier seal, it's organic

 To look up products certified by WSDA's Organic Program, go to

http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/MaterialsLists.aspx

and look for the Brand Name Materials List



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Translating the Terminology

- •What does "least toxic" mean?
- •What does "approved for organic gardens" mean?
- •What does "safe" mean?
- Where can you find a terminology translator if you need one?

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Summary

- An organic pesticide is still a pesticide
- Know your material before you use it
- Make sure you use registered pesticides; don't make your own
- If you require organic materials, look for the certification
- Find out if you need a license

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