

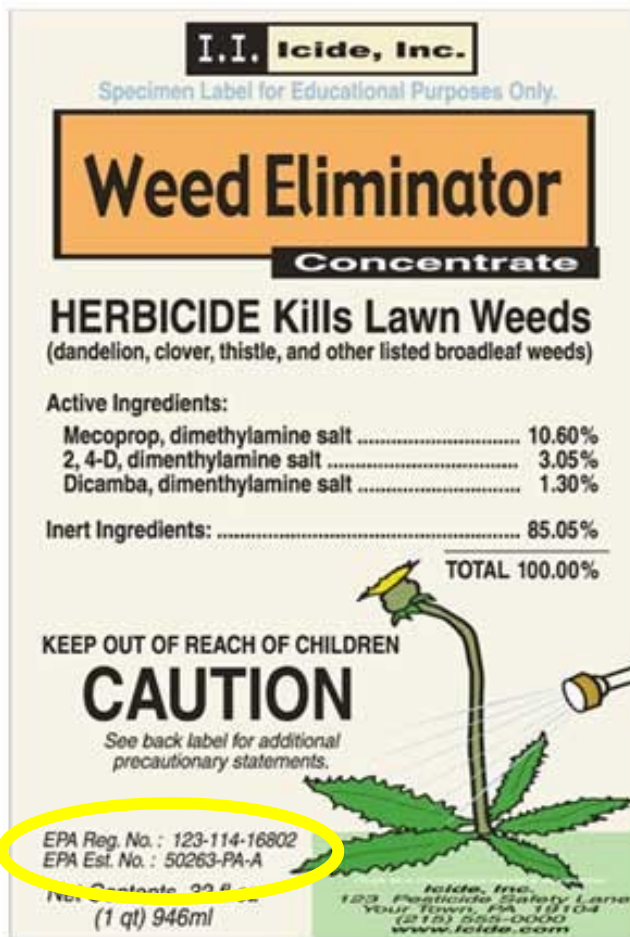


**PENN STATE UNIVERSITY  
PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**WHAT ARE PESTICIDES AND WHO  
CAN APPLY THEM**

Pesticides are natural or synthetic substances used by people to control and manage pests by disrupting some part of their life processes. The term pesticide means to “kill pests,” however pesticides also include attractants, repellants, and growth regulators, which may not kill pests. Examples of pesticides include algicides, bactericides, defoliants, desiccants, fungicides, growth regulators, herbicides, insecticides, repellents, and rodenticides.

Pesticides are used at Penn State in crop production, greenhouses, research, insect and rodent control in food storage and housing areas, livestock or other animal husbandry, mosquito control on water bodies, turf grass management, termite control, pool management, and in the production of ornamental gardens, parks, and grounds.



All registered pesticides have an EPA registration number on them (see picture at left). Many of these general use pesticides can be purchased at garden or hardware shops and used by homeowners, such as bee and wasp sprays, ant traps, or lawn herbicides.

However at Penn State, no one can apply pesticides unless the facility has obtained a business license as a public applicator from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. In addition, facilities must have certified individuals to apply pesticides. Disinfectants and sanitizers which may have EPA registration numbers that are not used for water treatment are exempt from these requirements.

The Penn State University Pesticide Management Program Manual contains the requirements for pesticide use at University facilities. Contact EHS at 814-865-6391 or visit our website ([www.ehs.psu.edu](http://www.ehs.psu.edu)) for more information.