
Glossary of Terms

a.i.	The part of a pesticide formulation that controls the pest.
abrasion	Damage that results from contact with rough material.
absorbent material	Material which can take up chemicals and hold them. Sometimes used to clean up pesticide spills. Example: clay powder, kitty litter.
absorption	Movement into an organism (plant, animal) or a structure (soil, wood, etc.) of a substance placed on its surface.
absorption rate	The amount of material absorbed in a specific period of time.
acaracide	A pesticide used to control or kill mites and/or ticks.
acetylcholine	A chemical formed at the ends of nerves to conduct nerve impulses over the microscopic gap between nerves or between a nerve and a muscle or gland.
action threshold	The point in time at which the pest needs to be controlled to prevent the pest from causing unacceptable damage.
activated charcoal	A finely ground form of charcoal used to absorb gases and vapours in cartridge respirators.
active ingredient (a.i.)	The part of a pesticide formulation that controls the pest.
acute exposure	A single exposure to a substance.
acute poisoning	Poisoning which occurs after a single dose or exposure to a pesticide.
acute toxicity	The toxic response resulting from a single exposure to a pesticide. This is determined through oral, dermal or inhalation studies.
adjuvant	A substance added to a spray mix to improve effectiveness of the active ingredient. Examples: emulsifiers, wetting agents, surfactants.
adsorption	The process of a substance being attracted to, or “sticking to”, soil particles.
aerosol (pressurized can)	Pesticide driven by an inactive gas under pressure, producing very fine solid or liquid particles suspended in air.

agitation	The movement of a liquid pesticide or spray mix to keep the contents mixed.
air blast sprayer	A type of sprayer which propels spray droplets in an airstream. Used for spraying orchards.
air shear nozzle	Used with a high velocity air stream to break up a stream of liquid into fine droplets.
air sparging	Agitation (bubbles) caused when air is forced into the bottom of a tank and up through a solution.
algicide	A pesticide used to control or kill algae.
allergic sensitization	The term used to describe the development over time of an allergic reaction to pesticides or chemicals used in the formulation of pesticides.
alternate growth	Leaves of a plant which grow from alternate sides of the stem but not from the same node.
alternate host	A plant (other than your crop) that allows an insect or disease to grow and reproduce. It can act as a source for infection of crops.
annual weed	A weed which completes its life cycle in one year.
antidote	A remedy given by a doctor to counteract the effects of a poison.
apiarist	A beekeeper.
application rate	The amount of pesticide applied to a specific area (for example, 5 kg per hectare). The application rate is found on the label. Also called pesticide rate.
artificial respiration (A.R.)	First aid method to establish and maintain breathing.
atomizing nozzles	Nozzles which have a very small opening. When used with a liquid under high pressure, they create very fine droplets like a mist or fog.
atropine	An antidote drug administered by a doctor to those poisoned by organophosphorus and carbamate insecticides.
attractants	Substances which may attract insects, mites, molluscs or animal pests.

avicide	A pesticide used to control or kill birds.
bacteria	One-celled organism that can only be seen with a microscope.
bactericides	A pesticide used to control or kill bacteria.
ball check strainer	A screen strainer located at a nozzle which contains a small spring-loaded ball bearing. The ball bearing acts as a shut-off valve to prevent dripping from the nozzle when the spray pressure is turned off.
base level	The “normal” level of cholinesterase present in the blood when a person is not exposed to organophosphorus or carbamate insecticides. It is compared to the blood cholinesterase level during the spraying season to determine whether there are signs of insecticide poisoning.
beneficial insects	Insects that help to control pest populations naturally.
biennial weed	A weed which completes its life cycle in two years.
bio-accumulation	The ability of some pesticides to build up in the body tissues (especially fat cells) of animals. Small amounts of pesticide gradually build up over time and can cause death or long-term damage.
bio-assay	Use of a living organism to determine the presence and concentration of a substance toxic to that organism.
biological control	The use of living things such as birds or insects to control pests.
bio-magnification	When pesticides accumulate in animals that are part of a food chain, the last animal of the chain receives very high levels of pesticides which can cause death or long-term damage.
boom sprayer	Equipment that delivers spray droplets through nozzles on a boom (pipe or tube) directly onto the soil or crop. Most common type of sprayer.
boomless sprayer	A sprayer that uses special nozzles or a pivoting single nozzle to cover a swath. It does not require a boom.
buffer zone	An area that is left untreated to protect a sensitive area.
calibration	The test measurement of application equipment output under typical operation conditions.

canister gas mask	A metal or plastic container filled with absorbent materials. It is designed to filter gases and vapours from the air. The canister may also contain a physical filter to remove solid or liquid particles.
CANUTEC	Canadian Transport Emergency Centre established to give information on chemicals. Operated by Transport Canada.
carbamate insecticides	Organic insecticides that can have similar toxic effects as organophosphorus insecticides.
carcinogenicity	The ability to cause cancer.
carrier	Material added to a pesticide product to dilute it to produce even distribution. The carrier is usually water but it may also be talc (dust), oil or other solvents.
cartridge	The small, detachable part of the air-purifying respirator which is designed to absorb gases and vapours from air.
caustic	A corrosive chemical that can burn the skin. Caustics have pH values greater than 7.
centrifugal pump	A pump which moves liquid from an inlet valve to an outlet valve by rapid rotation of a central shaft enclosed in a hollow body.
certified grower	A farmer who has completed the Grower Pesticide Safety Course and has passed the qualifying exam. A grower (farmer) is defined under the Pesticides Act as a person who uses farm land for agricultural or forestry production.
chemical control	Pest control method which includes the use of chemical pesticides to kill or control the pest populations.
CEPA	Canadian Environmental Protection Act (federal)
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency of the federal government.
chisel cultivator	A cultivator that has a sharp leading edge and flared sides. Used to rip apart sod and soil.
cholinesterase	An enzyme found in humans necessary for the proper functioning of the nervous system. Organophosphorus and carbamate insecticides are cholinesterase inhibitors.
cholinesterase level	The amount of cholinesterase in a person's blood.

chronic exposure	Repeated exposure to a substance over a longer period of time.
chronic poisoning	Poisoning which occurs after repeated exposure to a pesticide over an extended period.
chronic toxicity	The toxic response resulting from repeated exposure to small doses of pesticide over a long period of time.
classification (scheduling)	<p>a) The provincial system used by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to classify (schedule) federally registered products into Schedules by their toxicity and environmental and health hazards. It restricts the access of pesticides in Ontario.</p> <p>b) The Federal system used by PMRA, Health Canada to group products by use and toxicity as either DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, RESTRICTED or MANUFACTURING.</p>
common name (CSA chemical name)	The simplified chemical name of the active ingredient of a pesticide appearing on the label as the guarantee (also called generic name).
compatibility	When two or more pesticides are added to a spray tank, they mix satisfactorily and, when combined, work effectively together.
complete metamorphosis	The life cycle of an insect which includes egg, larva (grub or caterpillar), pupa and adult.
compound leaf	A leaf divided into separate leaflets.
compressed-air sprayer	Operates under pressure, usually supplied by a manual pump which fits into the top of the spray tank.
concentrate	The pesticide formulation sold by the vendor to the user before being diluted with water or oil.
concentration	The amount of a substance contained in a mixture.
confined space	An enclosure or partial enclosure having limited means of entry or exit, with poor natural ventilation. Confined spaces may contain hazardous contaminants or be oxygen-deficient, for example mushroom houses, greenhouses. All confined spaces are considered immediately dangerous to life or health unless proven otherwise.
contact pesticide	A pesticide which must come in contact with the pest to be effective. They can be applied to the pest or on surfaces the pests touch.

contaminate (contamination)	To alter a material by the introduction of a chemical, so that the material is unfit for a specified use.
corrosion	The physical breakdown of a material caused by a chemical reaction. For example - the rusting of metal caused by salt, water and air.
corrosive	A substance that contains an acid or caustic which may chemically burn the skin, mouth, stomach, etc. Corrosives may also attack metal parts such as metal pesticide application equipment and storage containers).
cotyledon	First leaves to appear on the stem of a broadleaf plant.
cultipacker	An implement for cultivating soil. A roller helps to break up clods and form a smooth surface suitable for planting.
cultivar	A cultivated variety of plant, such as named vegetable crops.
cultural control	Pest control method using practices common to good land management.
data	Accumulated information such as that required for registration of a pesticide.
days to harvest	The least number of days that must pass between the last pesticide application and the harvest date, as indicated on the pesticide label.
decontaminate (decontamination)	To remove pesticide residues.
degradation	The process by which chemicals break down in the environment. Breakdown is affected by many environmental factors including temperature, moisture and pH.
dermal	Related to the skin.
dermatitis	Inflammation of the skin induced by contact with some agent.
desorption	The process by which an absorbed substance is released from a material such as wood or soil.
diaphragm pump	A positive displacement pump in which a flexible membrane in a hollow cylinder is moved up and down to draw liquid in, and then force it out.

dilute	To make a pesticide concentration weaker by adding water, oil or inert solids.
drift	Airborne movement of pesticide droplets, particles, or vapours away from the target area to areas not meant to be treated.
driftable fines	Droplets smaller than 100 microns.
droplets	Individual, small amounts of liquid.
dry flowable	A wettable powder which is formulated into small pellets or granules.
dugout	A natural or man made pond which holds water but has no outflow.
dust or powder	A finely ground dry material of a low concentration of active ingredient plus inerts such as talc. No dilution is needed before use.
economic injury level	This occurs when the amount of economic damage caused by the pest is equal to the cost of controlling the pest.
efficacy	The production of a desired effect.
emulsifiable concentrate	A liquid pesticide formulation consisting of the active ingredient, a solvent, and an emulsifier that helps the pesticide mix in water.
entomologist	A person who studies insects.
environmental stress	Unfavourable environmental conditions that stress plants and cause abnormal growth or disease-like symptoms.
eradicant	A fungicide which is applied to a plant that is infected with a disease. It penetrates into the plant tissue and kills the disease organism.
exposure	Contact with a gas, liquid or solid by a pesticide user or bystander. It can be oral, dermal or respiratory.
face shield	A transparent piece of protective equipment used by a pesticide user to protect the face from pesticide exposure.
FDA	Food and Drugs Act , administered by Health Canada.
field exposure studies	Tests which are conducted to determine how a pesticide user is exposed to a pesticide product when using it on the job.

formulant	Any ingredient that is used to make up a pesticide product, other than active ingredient that actually controls the pest. Formulants may include carriers, diluents and other materials.
formulation	The form in which a pesticide is sold. It includes the active ingredient, carriers, diluents, or other materials.
fumigant	Pesticides used in the form of volatile liquids or gases.
fumigation	The use of pesticides in gaseous form to destroy pests. Fumigation may be carried out either indoors or outdoors.
fungi (fungus)	Small organisms which cause rot and mould diseases of plants.
fungicide	Pesticide used to control fungal plant diseases.
gas	A substance that is in the gaseous state at ordinary temperature and pressure.
gasket	A thin layer of material like cork, rubber, paper, etc., placed between joined metal parts to give a solid seal and prevent leaks.
gear pump	A low pressure pump with two interlocking gears set in an enclosed casing. Liquid enters one valve and is carried between the gear teeth and the casing wall to an outlet valve on the opposite end.
genetic control	Pest control method including selecting disease resistant hybrids.
gradual metamorphosis	The life cycle of an insect which includes egg, nymph and adult.
granular	A mix of dry, large, free-flowing particles usually with a low concentration of active ingredient.
ground water	Water located in saturated zones below the soil surface. Wells and springs are fed by groundwater.
growth regulators	Substances which act like hormones. They affect the normal development of the organism.
guarantee	The amount of active ingredient in a product as stated on the label. Usually expressed as a percentage by weight or weight per unit volume.
half life	A measurement of the speed at which a pesticide breaks down in the environment.

hand pump sprayer	A small sprayer that uses a hand operated plunger to force pesticide out with the air-flow.
Hantavirus	A virus that is carried by rodents, especially deer mice, that can cause a rare but very serious lung disease in humans called Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS).
hazard	Danger or risk when working with pesticides.
HEPA filter	High Efficiency Particulate Air filter.
herbicide	A pesticide used to control or kill weeds.
hose end sprayer	Sprayer equipment which draws a fixed rate of pesticide from a small spray tank and mixes it with water flowing through a hose.
hydraulic sprayer	Spray equipment which delivers pesticide as a spray driven by a hydraulic pump.
ICM	Integrated Crop Management - a complete crop management program that considers all aspects of production.
impregnated fertilizer	Granular fertilizer containing a low amount of herbicide.
incomplete metamorphosis	The life cycle of an insect which includes egg, nymph and adult.
incorporate (into soil)	Some pesticides must be covered with soil to prevent breakdown by the sun, or to act as a fumigant. The soil must be turned over and the pesticide must be mixed into the top 15 cm of soil.
inert ingredient	Any ingredient in a formulation which has no pesticidal action. Inert ingredients may be toxic to the applicator.
ingest (ingestion)	Take through the mouth and swallow.
inhale (inhalation)	Breathe in through the nose or mouth and into the lungs.
insecticide	A pesticide used to control insects.
IPM	Integrated Pest Management - the process of planning and taking steps that will prevent or control pests.
irritant	A substance which produces symptoms of inflammation on contact with the skin, eyes, nose, throat, lungs and stomach.

jet agitator	A device which injects water at high pressure through a small valve into the tank to agitate a pesticide solution.
LC₅₀ (inhalation toxicity)	The concentration (expressed in parts per million) of a vapour in air which will kill 50% of the test animals when it is inhaled (breathed in) over a set period of time.
LD₅₀ (lethal dose 50%)	A statistical estimate of a chemical dose which will kill 50 percent of test animals, usually within a stated period of time.
leaching	The process that occurs when pesticides dissolve in water and move down through the soil.
Licensed Exterminator	A commercial pesticide applicator who has been licensed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment after completing a home study course and passing an examination. Only a Licensed Exterminator may charge a fee to apply pesticides.
maximum residue limit (MRL)	The greatest amount of pesticide residue that may be contained in or on food, set by Health Canada under the Food and Drugs Act .
mechanical control	Pest control method using physical practices to prevent the spread of pests or reduce pest populations. Example: cultivating fields to control weeds. Also referred to as physical control.
metabolism	Processes occurring in organisms or cells.
metamorphosis	The changes that an insect makes as it goes through the stages of its life cycle. For example: caterpillar to butterfly.
microbial insecticides	Pesticides which contain microbes (tiny organisms) which, when eaten by the pest, kills them.
micro-encapsulated	The pesticide is contained in small capsules which release it slowly.
mist blower	Equipment designed to apply tiny droplets (low volume air sprayers) suspended in air. They use low water volumes.
mite	A tiny animal, similar to a spider, having 8 legs.
miticide	A pesticide used to control or kill mites, also called acaracide.
molluscicide	A pesticide used to control or kill snails and slugs.
monitoring	The regular inspection and sampling you do to get an estimate of the size, extent and location of pest populations.

moult	The process by which an insect sheds its layer of skin to make room for new growth.
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet. The MSDS gives additional information about a pesticide that may not be on the label, such as health hazards, personal safety and environmental protection.
mutagenicity	Ability to cause genetic changes.
negative fit check	A check to make sure that a respirator fits properly.
nematicide	A pesticide used to control or kill nematodes.
nematode	A tiny round worm that causes damage by feeding on roots or other plant parts.
neoprene	Synthetic rubber-like polymer. This material is chemical resistant.
NIOSH	The U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. NIOSH operates a testing and certification program for respirators.
nitrile	A chemical-resistant synthetic material used to make gloves that are acceptable for handling pesticides.
non-residual	A substance which breaks down quickly and leaves no biologically active material behind.
non-selective	A herbicide which is effective on all plants it contacts.
non-systemic	A pesticide which stays on the surface of a plant. It does not enter it or move through all its parts.
noxious	Harmful.
nozzle output	This term describes the volume of spray produced by each nozzle per minute (Litres/minute). Nozzle output depends on the size of the nozzle opening and pump pressure.
ocular	Concerning the eyes.
off-label use	Use of a pesticide on a crop, animal or pest that does not appear on the pesticide product label.
oncogenicity	The ability to cause tumour growth, not necessarily cancers.

OPAC	Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee. This committee approves the classification (schedule) for each pesticide offered for sale in Ontario.
opposite growth	Leaves that grow opposite to each other on the same node of the plant stem..
oral	Taken into the body through the mouth.
organochlorine insecticides	Organic chemicals containing chlorine, for example endosulfan, dicofol.
organophosphorus insecticides	Synthetic organic insecticides which contain phosphorus, giving acute toxic effects due to inhibition of the enzyme cholinesterase.
orifice disc	Part of a combination spraying systems nozzle. The disc has a circular opening from 1/64 to 12/64 of an inch in diameter (D-1 to D-12).
particle drift	The movement of spray droplets or particles away from the target areas.
particulate or bait	Mixture of large particles not recognized as a pellet or granular formulation. The pesticide is mixed with edible inert ingredients.
parts per million (ppm)	A measurement of a minute amount of pesticide residue usually in milligrams per kilograms.
pellet	Preformed mixture of active ingredient and inerts to form spheres or cylinders.
perennial weed	A weed that lives for more than two years.
persistence (persistent)	The ability of some chemicals to remain in the environment for a long period of time.
pest	Any harmful or troublesome organism.
Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)	The Act administered by PMRA, Health Canada requiring a pesticide to be adequately tested before registration and sale. The pesticide product must carry a PCPA registration number before legal sale.
pesticide	Any device, organism, substance or mixture of substances intended for killing, controlling or managing pests, such as insects, rodents, fungi, weeds.

pesticide rate	The amount of pesticide applied to a specific area (for example, 5 kg per hectare). The pesticide rate is found on the label. Also called application rate.
Pesticides Act and Regulation 914	The Act regulating pesticides in Ontario. Under the Act, all pesticides registered for sale federally must be classified in Ontario into one of six Schedules.
photo-allergic	Allergic response to pesticides, activated by sunlight.
physical control	Removing the pest from the crop by pruning, cultivation, etc.
piscicide	A pesticide used to control or kill fish.
piston pump	This pump is similar to a car's engine. Pistons draw the pesticide solution in through an inlet valve on a down stroke, and force it out an outlet valve on the upstroke. It is a high capacity pressure pump that requires high power to operate.
PMRA	Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada
poison	A chemical which, when taken in small quantities, causes illness or death.
Poison Information Centres	Located in all provinces, these Centres provide first aid information for poisoning victims, and antidotes and treatment procedures to doctors.
pollutant	Any form of contaminant that spoils the natural environment.
polyvinylchloride (PVC)	A form of vinyl used in manufacturing.
positive displacement pump	Any type of pump that works by building up pressure in the output line. They are also self-priming.
post-emergence	A pesticide treatment applied after the crop has emerged from the soil.
powered air purifiers	A helmet system respirator having a motor-blower which forces air through a filter.
precautions	Safety warnings found on the label of a pesticide product. Tells how to use the product safely (for example, protective clothing).

pre-emergence	A pesticide treatment applied before the crop has emerged from the soil.
pre-grazing interval	The least number of days that must pass between the last pesticide application and when animals graze the treated area.
pre-harvest interval	The least number of days that must pass between the last pesticide application and harvest.
pre-slaughter interval	The least amount of time that must pass between when an animal is treated with a pesticide and when the animal is slaughtered.
premature	Any time in the growth of an organism before it is completely developed.
pre-plant treatment	A herbicide treatment applied before the crop is planted. It may be applied when the land is being prepared for planting or immediately before seeding time.
pressure	The force used to apply the spray mix.
pressure regulating valve	A spring-loaded valve which absorbs pressure variations in the pressure line of a sprayer. It returns excess pressure-driven liquid back to the tank by a pressure relief line.
principal display panel	Front panel of a pesticide label.
protectant	A fungicide applied to healthy plants to kill fungus spores before they infect the plant.
pulsation damper	A small tank containing pressurized air which is attached to the pressurized line from a pump. It absorbs changes in pressure that result from changing output volumes during application.
pump housing	The enclosure that contains all the internal working parts of the pump.
P.V.C.	Polyvinylchloride - a form of vinyl used in manufacturing.
REI	Restricted Entry Interval. See re-reentry period.
re-entry period or re-entry time	The length of time that must pass before workers may safely enter an area treated with pesticide without wearing protective clothing and equipment. Also called Restricted Entry Interval (REI).

registered pesticide	A pesticide accepted under the Pest Control Products Act for the uses and purposes claimed. The PCP registration number must be displayed on the label of each pesticide container sold or used in Canada.
registrant	Person or company having registered a product.
repellents	These pesticides contain substances which pests avoid and these products will therefore keep the pests away from the target. They are often used for mosquitoes and biting flies. Other examples are mothballs or crystals.
residual	A residual pesticide continues to work for a period of time after its application. Residual pesticides do not break down quickly in the soil and may last for weeks, months or years.
residue	The amount of pesticide that remains on a crop, animal or surface for a period of time after it has been treated.
residue tolerances	The maximum level of residues that may lawfully be on or in food.
resistance	Also called “tolerance”. This term describes when pests are no longer affected by the use of a pesticide.
respirator	A device designed to protect the wearer from breathing in hazardous air. There are three kinds: quarter-facepiece (covers above the chin), half-facepiece (under the chin), and full-facepiece (covers nose, mouth, and eyes). It is designed to make a tight fit with the face to keep out gas or particles.
rhizome	A root-like, underground stem.
rinsing device	Equipment which uses pressurized water to rinse containers as effectively as triple rinsing.
risk	The possibility of harm that may result from working with a pesticide. The amount of risk depends upon the toxicity of the pesticide and your exposure to it.
rodenticide	A pesticide used to control or kill rodents.
roller pump	A positive displacement pump, with nylon, rubber or metal rollers contained in a housing. When the rollers revolve they move the liquid forcefully from the intake to the output valve.

Schedule	The term used by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to describe a category or grouping given to a pesticide product. The MOE places all registered pesticide products acceptable for use in Ontario into one of six Schedules (or groups). The Schedule depends on the toxicity, concentration, hazard to the applicator, hazard to the environment and other characteristics of the product.
sealant	A material which makes a surface moisture-resistant. For example, epoxy sealing paint for cement floors of a pesticide storage area.
secondary display panel	The back or side panel of a pesticide label.
secondary pest	A pest which is not causing the primary damage, but causes additional damage.
sediment	Any solid substance which settles out of a solution and goes to the bottom of the container.
seed treatment	A liquid or powdered pesticide which is applied to the surface of the seed.
selective	Any herbicide which will kill some plants but not others. For example, 2,4-D kills broadleaf plants but not grasses.
self-priming	A pump that is designed to draw liquid up into itself, without affecting its ability to perform.
sensitive crops	Crops which are easily injured by pesticides.
sensitizer	A substance which causes little or no reaction on first exposure. With repeated exposures, however, it may cause a severe response not necessarily limited to the contact site. Skin sensitization is the most common form, although respiratory sensitization is also possible.
siphon	The process of drawing a liquid “up-hill” from one container to another. The flow is started by suction and continues because of gravity and surface tension. For example - gasoline can be siphoned from a tank into a can with a length of hose.
Site of Action	Refers to the way a pesticide works to control the pest. Important for managing resistance.
smoke bombs	A form of pesticide which on burning releases aerosols, gases, and vapours to fumigate greenhouses and mushroom houses.

soil fumigant	A pesticide used to control pests in the soil. When added to the soil, it takes the form of a gas or vapour. Since it can evaporate quickly, it is often used with some kind of cover.
soil sterilants	Non-selective residual herbicides which are applied to soil to prevent growth of plants for a long period of time (a few months to many years).
soluble powder or granules	A dry material similar to dust or granules except it is soluble in water.
solvent	An organic liquid used to dissolve substances that won't dissolve in water.
Spills Action Centre	A centre established to receive calls reporting spills. Operated by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment - 1-800-268-6060.
spores	Tiny "seeds" which are produced by a fungus and spread in the air. When they germinate, some spores can cause infection on certain plants.
spray drift	The movement of spray droplets away from the target area.
sprayer output	This term describes the amount of spray mix applied to a given area (Litres/hectare). Sprayer output depends upon the size of the nozzle opening, pump pressure and travel speed.
sticky pastes	Substances used to trap insects. They may contain specific colours or attractants.
suction	The process of drawing liquid from a spray tank by the vacuum force exerted by a pump.
summer annual	A plant which completes its life cycle in one year, germinating in the spring and dying in the fall or winter of the same year.
supplemental label	This label gives the directions for the emergency use or new use(s) for a previously registered pesticide, until the product label can be updated and printed again. The supplemental label must be used along with the original product label that comes attached to the product container.
supplied-air respirator	These respirators supply air through a tube to the headpiece from a tank on the wearer's back (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus).

surface water	Water at the soil surface in open bodies such as streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.
surfactant	A substance which reduces the surface tension of a liquid to make it spread out over a surface, rather than “bead-up” in small droplets.
surge tank	Relieves sudden changes in line pressure and prevents damage to the pump. Similar to a pulsation damper.
suspension or flowable	A cloudy liquid composed of solid particles of active ingredient (finely ground) in a liquid. Needs dilution.
symptom	An outward sign of a disease or poisoning.
synapse	A gap between one nerve fibre and another.
synergism	The increased effectiveness achieved when two chemicals are used together, compared to their effectiveness when used alone.
syrup of ipecac	A liquid used to induce vomiting.
systemic	A pesticide which is absorbed into a living organism and moves through it into all parts.
tablet	A measured amount of a mixture of active ingredient and inert material pressed into a convenient shape.
target	Where the pesticide is to be applied - for example, the soil surface or the leaf of a plant.
teratogenicity	Ability to cause birth defects.
TDG Act	Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act , administered by Transport Canada of the federal government.
technical material	The pesticide (active ingredient) as it is manufactured by a chemical company before formulation.
temperature inversion	This usually occurs at night, when cool air near the soil surface is trapped under a layer of warmer air.
test animals	Laboratory animals exposed to pesticides to measure toxicological effects - rats, mice, rabbits, birds or fish.
throttling valves	Controls on the pressure line from a pump which increase or reduce the flow by restricting the size of the opening in the line.

tiller	A secondary shoot on a grass plant.
toxicity	The ability of a substance to cause human injury, sickness or other unwanted effects.
trade name	A name given to a product by the manufacturer to identify it.
Trained Assistant (TA)	An assistant agriculturist who is trained to use pesticides under the supervision of a Certified Grower. TA's must take Ontario Ministry of the Environment approved training every five years.
Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act	A federal Act, administered by Transport Canada, promoting public safety in the transportation of dangerous goods. Many pesticides are classed as dangerous goods.
trigger pump sprayers	A kind of sprayer which forces pesticide mixture through a nozzle when the trigger is squeezed.
triple rinse	Method of properly rinsing containers by filling the container 10% full with diluent, then capping, shaking the container and adding the rinsate to the spray tank. Repeated two more times.
true leaves	The leaves which appear after the cotyledons and remain intact throughout the life of the plant.
true liquid/solution	When the active ingredient is mixed with water, the water remains clear.
turbulence	Rapid movement of a liquid that causes mixing.
Ultra Low Volume (ULV)	Used to apply pesticide that is almost pure formulated product. Application rates are only 5 to 6 L/ha or less.
vacuum	Any air pressure that is less than the air surrounding it.
vaporize	When certain pesticides are applied to a crop and subjected to heat from sunlight, they may break down to produce gases that are lighter than air. These vapours can drift with air currents to other areas where they may cause damage.
vapour drift	The movement of pesticide vapours.
volatility	Refers to the ease with which a material changes into a vapour.
volatilization	This is the process of vaporization by a liquid.

Volume Median Diameter (VMD)	The droplet size at which one half of the spray volume consists of droplets larger than VMD and one half consists of droplets smaller than the VMD.
weed	Any plant that grows where it is not wanted.
wettable powder	active ingredient added to powder (clay, talc) containing a wetting and dispersing agent. Forms a suspension in water.
wetting agent	An adjuvant added to pesticides to promote spreading.
whorl growth	Groups of three or more leaves growing from the same node on the stem.
wick applicator	A specialized applicator for pesticides which is made of an absorbent material like cloth. The cloth is saturated with pesticide then wiped over the weed surface.
winter annual	A plant which completes its life cycle in one year, germinating in the fall, flowering and dying in the spring/summer of the following year.
working pressure	The range of pressure at which a pump is rated to operate. The highest safe working pressure is usually 80% of the maximum pressure.