

# Classification of Pesticides

In Ontario, all pesticide products are classified into one of six Schedules. The classification of pesticide products is important. It restricts the use of pesticides to people who are trained to handle them properly. The pesticide vendor's licence you or your company has will determine which Schedules of pesticides you may sell.

Products are classified into one of six Schedules depending on:

- ▶ how poisonous they are to human health and the environment (toxicity),
- ▶ how long they last in the environment (persistence),
- ▶ their concentration,
- ▶ how they are used, and
- ▶ their container size.

The Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee (OPAC) reviews the technical information on each pesticide and recommends the classification. The classification indicates who may sell and/or use that pesticide. A pesticide can be sold or used in Ontario as soon as the approved pesticide is posted on the OPAC web site located at [www.opac.gov.on.ca](http://www.opac.gov.on.ca).

The classification system allows Ontario to make sure that pesticides are only used by people who need them and have the knowledge to use them properly. Remember, the product must be federally registered for the intended use.

### Ontario's Pesticide Classification

Schedule	Human and/or Environmental Health Criteria*	For Use According to Label Directions By:				
		Licensed Exterminator	Certified Grower	Technician/ Trainee	Trained Assistant	Property Owner or Tenant
1	Very Toxic Very Persistent	✓ (under permit)	✓ (under permit)			
5	Very Toxic Very Persistent	✓ (aerial application under permit)	✓		✓ (under supervision)	
2	Toxic Persistent	✓	✓	✓ (under supervision)	✓ (under supervision)	✓ (aquatic herbicides, under permit)
3	Moderately Toxic Moderately Persistent	✓	✓	✓ (under supervision)	✓	✓
4	Low Toxicity Low Persistence	✓	✓	✓ (under supervision)	✓	✓
6	Low Toxicity Low Persistence (larger size container )	✓	✓	✓ (under supervision)	✓	✓

\* More detailed information on classification criteria is outlined in the OPAC guidelines for classification of pesticide products available at [www.opac.gov.on.ca](http://www.opac.gov.on.ca)

The *Compendium of Scheduled Pesticides* can be found on the OPAC web site located at [www.opac.gov.on.ca](http://www.opac.gov.on.ca). At the web site, you can search for the classification of a pesticide. The Schedules are also listed in the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs recommendation publications. You can also ask your supplier.

---

# Review Questions

---



1. What characteristics of a pesticide are considered before it is classified into one of the six Schedules?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which Schedules of products may be applied by a trained assistant agriculturist under the supervision of a Certified Grower?

3. Which Schedule(s) of pesticides may a homeowner use?

4. Which Schedule(s) of pesticides may a Certified Grower use?

