

How does Oregon define cannabis?

The term cannabis includes industrial hemp, recreational marijuana, and medicinal marijuana.

What is a pesticide?

- Any substance intended to kill, repel, or mitigate a pest.
- Includes plant growth hormones/regulators. See ORS 634.006 for a full definition.

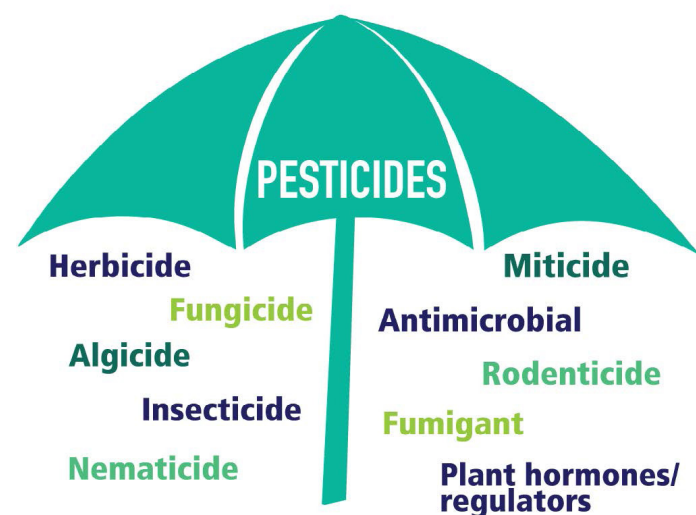
What is an active ingredient?

The chemical(s) in a pesticide product that act to control the pest (e.g. killing, repelling, or mitigating).

What is a tolerance?

The maximum amount of an active ingredient that may remain in or on food. Tolerances are set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Some active ingredients are exempt from tolerance requirements.

<https://oda.fyi/NPICtolerance>



Which pesticides can I use on cannabis?

You can use the pesticide products listed on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) guide list according to label directions. Some products may have restrictions such as, "Hemp Only," so please review the list carefully. The guide list is available at:

<https://oda.direct/CannabisPesticides>

The criteria for a product to be on the guide list includes:

- Active ingredient(s) is exempt from a tolerance by EPA; and
- Product is labeled for unspecified food crops or hemp.

Organic input and OMRI-Listed Pesticides

- Are NOT automatically approved for use on cannabis!
- Many organic products have tolerances established for use on food crops and would not be on ODA's Guide List for Pesticides and Cannabis.

If you think you have a product that meets the criteria but is not on the guide list, contact ODA's Pesticides Program and they will review your product.

Why are most pesticides not labeled for use on cannabis?

The EPA registers and regulates pesticides. For food crops, the EPA sets a tolerance. In order to set tolerances, the EPA completes a risk assessment, looking at the various ways we may be exposed to the active ingredient. The risk assessment is also used to evaluate and approve the language that appears on pesticide labels to ensure safe use.

Hemp only became federally legal in 2018. As of summer 2024, there is one active ingredient,

ethalfluralin, with a tolerance on hemp. There are now many pesticides labeled for use on hemp with tolerance-exempt active ingredients.

Marijuana is still illegal under federal law, therefore no risk assessments have been completed to establish tolerances. Because there are no pesticide active ingredients with tolerances for marijuana, Oregon is limited in which pesticides can be used legally.

Required testing: What are action levels?

All cannabis must be tested for the presence of several contaminants, including pesticides. Action levels indicate a level of pesticides that, when exceeded, is considered sufficient to warrant regulatory or remedial action under Oregon cannabis regulations.

For an overview of the testing rules for marijuana:

<https://oda.fyi/OHAMarijuanatesting>

For an overview of the testing rules for industrial hemp:

<https://oda.direct/hemp>

Pesticide investigations

ODA pesticide investigations to verify compliance with the Oregon Pesticide Control Act (ORS 634) may begin because:

- Another agency makes a referral. If you fail a pesticide test you will be referred to the ODA Pesticides Program.
- ODA receives a complaint.
- There is a reason to believe misuse is happening.

Remember!

- For marijuana, only use pesticides* on ODA's guide list.
- For hemp, you may use pesticides* on ODA's guide list, or pesticides that include hemp as a crop listed on the label.

* For all pesticide products, you must always read and follow the label.

Questions about a label or product

We know it is confusing – call us first! **503.986.4635** or pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov. We can help you understand how to comply with the pesticide label and find information relating to:

- Is the product allowed for use on cannabis?
- Where can I apply the product?
- What rate do I use?
- Are there restrictions on how many times the product can be applied in a given time period?

We cannot make pest-specific product recommendations.

Additional pesticide resources

National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)

NPIC provides objective, science-based information about pesticides and pesticide-related topics to enable people to make informed decisions.

<http://npic.orst.edu>

Action levels are NOT tolerances.

If you fail testing for an action level – above action level—you will not be allowed to sell your product. The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) will refer you to ODA's Pesticides Program.

Pesticide products must be legal for use on cannabis.

Even if the laboratory result of an ODA Pesticides Program inspection test is below the action level, the crop will not be allowed to go to market, and ODA may take additional enforcement actions.

Illegal use of pesticides may also affect your license with OLCC. If you have questions about a pesticide product label contact ODA Pesticides Program before use.

During an investigation, ODA may collect and analyze plant material for compliance tests, if necessary.

Training and licensing

To learn about licensing requirements, visit: <https://oda.direct/PesticideLicensing>

Growers must provide Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training to their employees. You must be a licensed pesticide applicator or have completed approved specialized training in order to train workers or handlers under the WPS.

<https://oda.direct/WPS>

Oregon OSHA Consultation Services

OR-OSHA consultation services are free and confidential. Consultations in workplace safety, industrial hygiene, and ergonomics can help you reduce accidents and related costs and help you develop a comprehensive program to manage safety and health.

<http://osha.oregon.gov/consult>