

PMA Newsletter

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Pest Management Academy

PLAYING IT SAFE AROUND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

Some Pesticides can burn plants

Ornamental plant is the term for trees, shrubs, and flowers that are used in landscaping. These are desirable plants that customers have often paid a lot of money for and nurtured with care. If you treat around building foundations for perimeter pests like crickets or ants, or if you treat yards for fleas or ticks, you need to be sure that the pesticide you use will not harm your customer's ornamental plants.

Check the product label. If the words "herbicide" or "phytotoxic" appear on the label, it means the pesticide kills plants. Don't use that product unless killing plants is what you want to do. To protect plants, you want a product that is nonphytotoxic or at least has low phytotoxicity.

Choose a pesticide that includes some plants on its list of allowed treatment sites. It should be relatively safe around most plants. But a product that's safe for some plants may not be safe for all plants. The label may have a statement like, "Do not allow spray to contact ferns, as injury may result." If the product you choose has warnings for specific plants, check with the homeowner to make sure that those plants are not in the treatment area.



Another consideration when treating around plants is protecting insect pollinators. Pesticide on flowering plants, even if it doesn't harm the plants, can kill bees. Choose your formulation and time your treatment to protect bees.

Which formulation is best around plants?

Granules are the safest formulation for use around plants since they fall off of the leaves to the ground. Wettable powders (WP), soluble powders (SP), suspension concentrates (SC) and capsule suspensions (CS or ME) are also good choices. Dusts are not a good choice for outdoor use because they can drift onto plants and other surfaces. Besides selecting a safe pesticide, there are other things you can do to minimize the risk of "burning" ornamental plants during your application.

- Avoid drift that can blow pesticide onto plants. Don't treat in windy conditions. Use a low pressure spray that produces larger droplets with less likelihood of drift.
- Spray outdoor areas in early morning or evening when temperatures are low. High temperatures increase the likelihood that the pesticide will vaporize and drift onto plants. Bees are also less active at these times.

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OCTOBER 2011-
FEBRUARY 2012**

GENERAL PEST CONTROL PROGRAM

7-9 NOV 2011 PRETORIA

5-7 DEC 2011 PRETORIA

16-18 JAN 2012 PRETORIA

WEED CONTROL

21-23 NOV 2011 PRETORIA

23-25 JANUARY 2012

TERMITE & WOOD DESTROYING ORGANISMS

25-27 OCT 2011 PRETORIA

30 JAN-1 FEB 2012 PRETORIA

FUMIGATION

31 OCT-2 NOV 2011 PRETORIA

14-16 NOV 2011 **CAPE TOWN**

6-8 FEB 2012 PRETORIA

PLANT PEST & DISEASES

21-23 NOV 2011 PRETORIA

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30 JAN-1 FEB 2012 PRETORIA