

# INDUSTRIAL HEMP

## Pesticide use for hemp

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Pesticides are used to protect food, fiber, property, and humans from damaging pests. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (PPPMD) is the lead state agency for pesticide regulation and is responsible for certifying pesticide applicators, licensing pesticide application businesses, registering pesticide products, monitoring pesticide manufacturing establishments, regulating the sale and use of pesticides, investigating pesticide misuse complaints, and enforcing the federal worker protection standard. Through this work, PPPMD helps ensure the availability and appropriate use of pesticides.

### Regulatory authority:

- [Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, Part 83, Pesticide Control](#)
- [Regulation 637, Pesticide Use](#)
- [Regulation 636, Pesticide Applicators](#)

### Summary of regulatory requirements:

Please refer to the public act and regulations for specific requirements.

- Michigan's pesticide law (Act 451 of 1994, Part 83) defines a pesticide as "a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating pests or intended as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant."
- Michigan law requires all products making a pesticidal claim, including those that EPA exempts under Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 25(b), to be registered with MDARD.
- Anyone who purchases and applies restricted use pesticides must be a certified pesticide applicator.
- Anyone who applies pesticides as part of their job – unless working on a farm - must be a certified pesticide applicator.
- Agricultural employers must ensure compliance with the federal worker protection standard when using a WPS labeled product.
- Pesticides must be applied according to label directions. Pesticides cannot be applied above labeled rates, and the use site must be present on the label.

- Applicators must wear the personal protection equipment (PPE) listed on the product label.
- Applicators must ensure application equipment is properly calibrated and maintained.
- Applicators must ensure pesticides are not released into the environment during mixing and loading.

## **Approved crop protection tools**

There are a limited number of pesticides currently registered for use on hemp. EPA maintains a [list of approved pesticides](#) that is updated as products are reviewed and added. Certain pesticides that meet EPA's requirements for exemption as minimum risk pesticides (25b) may be registered by MDARD for use on hemp.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Is hemp considered an agricultural commodity?**

Yes. As it is a plant or plant product produced for sale, consumption, or use by humans or animals, hemp is an agricultural commodity.

### **Is certification required to apply pesticides to hemp?**

Private certification is required if purchasing or applying a restricted use pesticide for a private agricultural purpose. If applying a pesticide commercially or as part of your employment, commercial certification is required. *Note: There are currently no restricted use pesticides labeled for use on hemp.*

### **Do I need a pesticide applicator business license to apply pesticides?**

A pesticide applicator business license is required if you are applying a pesticide to property you do not own, and you are being compensated for the pesticide application.

### **Who is covered by the worker protection standard (WPS)?**

The WPS covers two types of agricultural employees:

1. Pesticide handlers who mix, load, or apply pesticides, clean or repair pesticide application equipment, or assist with pesticide applications.
2. Agricultural workers who perform tasks related to growing and harvesting agricultural plants on farms, or in greenhouses.

For more information about Michigan's pesticide program, visit [www.michigan.gov/mdardpest](http://www.michigan.gov/mdardpest).