

2016

Compliance Priorities for Lawn and Landscape Operators

1. Become familiar with Indiana's Pollinator Protection Plan available at http://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/p3_activities.html as well as the new pollinator protection language on labels for the neonicotinoid group of insecticides. This group of insecticides is highly toxic to bees and other pollinators and is frequently applied to ornamentals. In an effort to protect pollinators, the US EPA has required new restrictions for the application of neonicotinoid insecticides as well as possibly other insecticides. An example of a new label restriction is, *do not apply this product while bees are foraging*.
2. Use side shields to keep granular pesticides and fertilizers from falling on non-turf areas such as sidewalks, driveways, walks and curbs. Remove any excess product from these areas with brooms or blowers. Studies have shown that granules left on hardscapes have led directly to surface water contamination.
3. Supervise unlicensed applicators and registered technicians. Remember non-licensed/non-registered applicators require on-site supervision by a certified applicator. On-site supervision means the physical presence of the supervising certified applicator at the worksite under circumstances that permit continuous direct voice contact with the non-certified individual. Registered technicians don't require on-site supervision, but must have
 - a. a site assessment fact sheet or site specific instructions,
 - b. a label for each pesticide product used that day,
 - c. any label mandated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - d. a means to establish direct voice communication with their supervisor
4. Become familiar with the additional regulatory requirements for applying pesticides on school property. Both OISC and the US EPA support the adoption of IPM principals for managing pests in and around schools. When applying pesticides at schools, applicators must adhere to the "school rule," which can be found at http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/pest_use_at_school.html . While many of the requirements apply directly to the school system, they will rely on you for such items as advance notice of application times, dates and application records.
5. Provide applicator employees with the label mandated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Know that many common turf herbicides require the applicator to wear a long sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks, chemical resistant gloves and eye protection. Remember, long sleeves that are rolled up and safety glasses that are on top of the head provide little to no protection to the applicator and therefore do NOT meet the PPE label requirement. Riding on application equipment does NOT lessen the PPE requirements unless specifically stated on the label.