

Atrazine Setback Requirements – Definitions & Where to Find Topographic Features (Do the setbacks apply to you?)

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The herbicide atrazine has various label setback requirements. This fact sheet defines the topographic features mentioned in the setback requirements. Refer to the atrazine label of all products for specific setback requirements.

Map Feature Definitions



Intermittent Stream – a stream that is dry sometime during a normal year; usually flows only during wet periods, when it receives water from rainfall runoff or springs, or from surface sources such as melting snow.



Perennial Stream – a stream is a body of water flowing in a natural surface channel. Rivers are characterized by the presence of slope, riffles and pools.



Lakes/Ponds – Any impounded body of water, natural or artificially made.



Sinkhole - a depression in the landscape resulting from the dissolution of limestone, and the subsequent collapse of overlying soil and rock.

Tile inlet – or risers are any opening to a drainage tile that water drains into. This includes Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBS).

Farm Pond – a water impoundment made by construction of a dam or an embankment or by excavating a pit or dugout located wholly on the farmer's property, not used for human drinking water and whose discharge is not conveyed directly into a perennial or intermittent stream or river through a clearly traceable, concentrated water flow.

How are Topographic Features Identified?

To follow the setback requirements, it is important to know how to identify the various applicable features. The United States Geological Service (USGS) is the agency responsible for naming topographic features. These features can be seen on USGS topographic maps. USGS designates lakes, reservoirs, rivers, perennial streams, intermittent streams and depressions (sinkhole). Individual County Soil Surveys also identify areas of depression or sinkholes. The agency maps do not designate the location of tile inlets.

Topographic Map Resource Sites

The USGS website is <http://geography.usgs.gov/partners/viewonline.html>. While not trying to show favorites, the TopoZone website <http://www.topozone.com/> is easy to use. Type in the "place name" and hit the search button. Select well known landmarks such as a "city, state" or "county, state" for the "place name." You can then move the viewer to the desired location and adjust the map size and scale to meet your needs. Topographic maps may be downloaded through the Purdue University Center for Advanced Application in Geographic Information Systems (CAAGIS) website:

<http://danpatch.ecn.purdue.edu/~caagis/ftp/gisdata/data.html>.

Select the map of choice from the map index. This downloads the whole USGS Quad map as a large zip file.

Information to order topographic maps from the USGS is found at:

http://geography.usgs.gov/esic/prices/ordering_info.html and/or the Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS) office at the local USDA Service Center may also have topographic maps.