Q. **What are examples of pesticides?**

A. According to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 7 U.S.C. § 136, the term “pesticide” means (1) any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, (2) any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant, and (3) any nitrogen stabilizer.

Some examples of pesticide types and their uses include:

- **Algaecides** — Control algae in lakes, canals, swimming pools, etc.
- **Antimicrobials** — Kills microorganisms (such as bacteria & viruses).
- **Disinfectants/Sanitizers** — Kills or inactivate disease-producing microorganisms on inanimate surfaces.
- **Fungicides** — Kills fungi (including blights, mildews, molds, and rusts).
- **Fumigants** — Produce gas or vapor intended to destroy pests in buildings or soil.
- **Herbicides** — Used to control unwanted plants (weeds). Herbicides may be combined with other materials such as “weed and feed” products.
- **Insecticides** — Kills insects and other arthropods.
- **Nematicides** — Kills nematodes (nonsegmented roundworms) that infect roots of certain crops.
- **Pheromones** — Biochemicals used to disrupt the mating behavior of insects.
- **Repellents** — Repel pests, including insects (such as mosquitoes) and birds.
- **Rodenticides** — Control mice, rats and other rodents.

Q. **Where can you get more information about pesticide labels?**

A. Products defined as a pesticide must be registered with the EPA, except EPA-defined minimum risk pesticides. WSDA’s regulations require state registration before distribution of all pesticides, including minimum risk pesticides, adjuvants, plant growth regulators, defoliants and desiccants. Pesticide product labels exist because of state and federal regulation of pesticides. The labels are reviewed for consistency with federal requirements and state specific environmental and health concerns. Products are reviewed in depth when they represent new potential for risk to humans or other non-target organisms.

For more information on pesticides registered in the state, contact the WSDA Pesticide Registration Section at pestreg@agr.wa.gov.

Searchable registration databases:
- kellysolutions.com/wa
- picol.cahnrs.wsu.edu/

Q. **What else should you consider when using pesticides?**

A. You should consider the following:

- Wear proper clothing when mixing and applying pesticides.
- Never smoke or eat while you mix or apply pesticides.
- Keep children and pets away from the area where you mix or apply the pesticide.
- Keep pesticides in their original containers. Never transfer pesticides to other containers such as those for milk or soft drinks.
- Mix only the amount of pesticide you need for one application to control a particular pest.
Q. Why is it important to read and follow pesticide labels?

A. Pesticide labels are designed to provide information you need to use the product safely and effectively. Topics include mixing and handling the pesticide, protecting yourself and others while using it, and hazards potentially resulting from improper handling or use. The label is required by law to be on or with the pesticide container; it is a violation of federal law to use the pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its label.

A key piece of information included on every pesticide label is the signal word that indicates how poisonous the product is to humans. Signal words are:
- **Danger – Poison** — highly poisonous (commercial applicator use only)
- **Danger** — poisonous or corrosive
- **Warning** — moderately hazardous
- **Caution** — least hazardous

You must read and follow all label directions when:
- **Buying** the product
- **Mixing** and **using** the pesticide
- **Storing** the pesticide
- **Disposing** of the unused pesticide and container

Pesticides can be identified by their EPA registration number on the label.