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NF93-120 The 1993 Atrazine Label Revision

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Roeth, Fred W., "NF93-120 The 1993 Atrazine Label Revision" (1993). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 1091.

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The 1993 Atrazine Label Revision

Fred W. Roeth, Extension Weed Specialist

Atrazine, and all products containing atrazine, have new label restrictions for 1993. The restrictions concern two major provisions:

1. rate reduction
2. setback buffer zones next to water

The provisions on the Aatrex labels are:

ATRAZINE RATES (active ingredient amounts)

FOR ALL SOIL APPLICATIONS PRIOR TO CROP EMERGENCE

On Highly Erodible Soils (as defined by SCS)

- If conservation tillage is practiced, leaving at least 30% of the soil covered with plant residues at planting, apply a maximum of 2.0 lbs/acre as a broadcast spray.
- If the soil coverage with plant residue is less than 30% at planting, a maximum of 1.6 lbs/A may be applied.

On Soils Not Highly Erodible

- Apply 2.0 lbs/A as a broadcast spray.

FOR POSTEMERGENCE APPLICATION

If no atrazine was applied prior to corn emergence, apply a maximum of 2.0 lbs/A broadcast. If a postemergence treatment is required following an earlier herbicide application, the total atrazine applied may not exceed 2.5 lbs active ingredient per acre per calendar year.

SETBACK ZONES

This product may not be mixed/loaded or used within 50 feet of all wells, including abandoned wells, drainage wells and sink holes. This product may not be mixed or loaded within 50 feet of intermittent streams and rivers, natural or impounded lakes and reservoirs. This product may not be applied aerially or by ground within 66 feet of the points where field surface water runoff enters perennial or intermittent streams and rivers or within 200 feet around natural or impounded lake and reservoirs. If this product is applied to highly erodible land, the 66-foot buffer or setback from runoff entry points must be planted to crop, seeded with grass or other suitable crop.

The label revisions were offered voluntarily by Ciba-Geigy to address water quality concerns, particularly concerning surface water. The revisions are designed to:

- reduce the overall amount of atrazine used.
- address conditions that increase the potential for runoff from treated fields.
- protect surface water, especially surface water used for drinking water.

These points are important:

- Surface water bodies are defined as intermittent streams, perennial streams, rivers, natural or impounded lakes and reservoirs.
- Ponds, waterways, ditches, holding ponds, canals, gullies, ruts and other sources not used for drinking water are not covered by the new label.
- The total maximum rate, combining pre- and post-emergence applications, that can be applied to an individual field each calendar year is 2.5 lbs ai/A.
- For soils defined as "highly erodible" by the Soil Conservation Service, the maximum single application pre-emergent rate is 2.0 lbs ai/ac for fields with at least 30% crop residue, and 1.6 lbs ai/ac for fields with less than 30% crop residue.
- Tile inlets or intakes that discharge water directly to groundwater or perennial or intermittent streams or impounded lakes and reservoirs are subject to the setback zones.

One question that has surfaced concerning the revisions is how a band application should be handled. The interpretation is that the rates are per treated acre, e.g. the maximum preemergence rate of 2.0 lbs/A limits the application to 2.0 lbs/A **in the treated band**. A 100-acre field (non HEL) could receive 200 lbs preemergence if broadcast, but only 100 lbs if applied in a 15-inch band on 30-inch rows ($200 \times 15/30$).

A more complicated question is what to do if atrazine was band-applied at planting (preemergence) and the grower wants to broadcast a postemergence application of a product containing atrazine. The 2.5 lbs ai per acre per year limitation defines the total maximum, (preemergence + postemergence). Beyond that maximum, each application can be considered separately. As long as the applicator complies with the label for each application and the total maximum, there is no problem. In a 100-acre field the total maximum is 250 lb ai atrazine per calendar year. A 15-inch banded preemergence application of atrazine at 1.6 lb/A to corn in 30-inch rows followed by a broadcast postemergence application of atrazine at 1.0

lb/A would be allowable. In this example, each separate application is within the label directions and the grower has applied only 180 lbs of atrazine [(100 acre ' (15/30) ' 1.6 lb/A) + (100 acre ' 1.0 lb/A)]. The grower would exceed the maximum by 10 lbs if the 1.6 lb/A preemergence application had been broadcast rather than banded.

File NF120 under PESTICIDES

E-1, Regulations

Issued April 1993

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Elbert C. Dickey, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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