



Rick Pate
Commissioner

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES
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FROM: Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Pesticide Management Section

DATE: July 23, 2019

RE: Pesticide use on hemp

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) 2019 Industrial Hemp Pilot Program is being implemented under provisions of the 2014 federal Farm Bill for Industrial Hemp. The 2018 federal Farm Bill allows the commercial production of hemp. The 2020 Alabama Hemp Program should be conducted under the provisions of the 2018 federal Farm Bill.

As with all agricultural production, it may be necessary to control pests when producing industrial hemp using a variety of approaches, including the application of pesticides. Currently, there are a limited number of pesticides registered for use on industrial hemp, and there are no established food tolerances for any pesticide applied to hemp that is grown for human consumption. The legal use of a pesticide in Alabama is dictated by the instructions on the product label that is developed as part of the federal registration process for all pesticide products and based on the site of application.

ADAI is providing this information to assist hemp growers in identifying those pesticide products allowed to be used in the production of hemp that will not be consumed as well as those that are allowed for use on hemp that is grown for human consumption. This information is not an endorsement or a recommendation to use pesticides in the production of hemp. The Alabama Pesticide Act defines a “pesticide” as “(i) any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any insects, rodents, fungi, bacteria, weeds, other forms of plant or animal life, bacterium, or viruses, except viruses on or in living man or other animals, which the Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries shall declare to be a pest; (ii) any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant.”

In Alabama, all pesticides must be registered with ADAI to be legally used, and only those pesticides that are registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or exempt from EPA’s registration process can be registered in Alabama. Pesticide usage in the production of hemp must comply with label instructions and may also require compliance with the federal Worker Protection Standard. If required, the pesticide label will include an “Agricultural Use Requirements” box. For information on how to read a pesticide label, click [here](#). For information on the Worker Protection Standard click [here](#).

Hemp That Will Not Be Consumed:

When determining those pesticides that may be used on hemp that will not be consumed by humans, products must meet the following criteria:

1. The label lists “hemp” as a use site, or the label language is sufficiently broad to include hemp and does not specifically prohibit its use on hemp;
2. The pesticide is registered federally by the EPA or exempted from registration; and
3. The pesticide is registered by ADAI. Information regarding ADAI’s pesticide product registration process is available [here](#) and currently registered pesticides are available [here](#).

Hemp That Will Be Consumed*:

When determining those pesticides that may be used on hemp that will be consumed by humans, products must meet the following criteria:

1. The active ingredient is exempt from the requirements of a tolerance on all food crops (i.e., auxins, select biopesticides, copper, cytokinins, gibberellins, petroleum oil, phosphorous acid, pyrethrins, soap, sulfur, common consumer food commodities, edible fats, and oils). Information regarding food tolerances for pesticide ingredients may be found [here](#).
2. The label has directions for use on unspecified food crops;
3. The pesticide is registered by the EPA or exempted from registration;
4. The pesticide is registered by ADAI; and
5. The label language is sufficiently broad to include hemp and does not specifically prohibit its use on hemp. It is expected that in the future, EPA will undertake activities to register pesticides that specifically include use on hemp that is grown for consumption.

*** Hemp is currently prohibited from being used in or as animal feed.**

Additional information/Questions regarding the regulation of pesticides may be directed to ADAI’s Pesticide Management Section. Pesticide Management is the regulatory unit that administers the provisions of the Alabama Pesticide Control Act and related regulations including enforcement of all federal pesticide regulations. Pesticide Management conducts inspections and investigations to ensure the proper use of pesticides. A complete copy of Alabama’s laws and regulations governing the use of pesticides is available [here](#).

Contact information for Pesticide Management is available [here](#).

Questions regarding the Alabama Industrial Hemp Program as well as the Industrial Hemp Grower and Processor/Handler Registration Programs may be directed to gail.ellis@agi.alabama.gov. More information regarding the Alabama Industrial Hemp Program is available on ADAI’s hemp webpage [here](#).