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EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## IFAS Pesticide and Fertilizer Recommendations<sup>1</sup>

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### Preferred Policy for Pesticides

Do not recommend or cause to be used any pesticide product that is not registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Do not recommend a use of a pesticide that does not appear on a registered pesticide label, unless:

- the use has been registered in Florida to meet a special Local Need [Section 24(c)].
- there is a current Emergency Exemption [Section 18] for the use.
- the use can be made in accordance with Section 2(ee) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Section 2(ee) defines certain uses of a pesticide that are not considered to be use inconsistent with labeling. These include:
  - applying a pesticide at any dosage, concentration, or frequency less than that specified on the labeling;

- applying a pesticide against any target pest not specified on the labeling if the application is to the crop, animal, or site specified on the labeling, unless the labeling specifically prohibits use against other pests;
- employing any method of application not prohibited by the labeling; and
- mixing a pesticide or pesticides with a fertilizer when such mixture is not prohibited by the labeling.

Recommendations involving Section 2(ee) uses should be based on data indicating the effectiveness of the use or practice.

### Pesticide Recommendations

- Extension specialists should only make recommendations within their area of expertise.
- The ultimate decision should be left to the end user.

1. This is EDIS Document FE 272, a publication of the Department of Food and Resource Economics, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Published April 2001. Please visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

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The pesticide information presented in this publication was current with federal and state regulations at the time of printing. The user is responsible for determining that the intended use is consistent with the label of the product being used. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow label information.

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- Publications containing pesticide use recommendations should have an appropriate pest control specialist as an author.
- Encourage the client to read and follow label directions, including those on supplemental labels, for-use directions, environmental and safety precautions and warnings, and storage and disposal instructions. Persons who use a pesticide for a use covered by a Section 24(c) [Special Local Needs Registration] or a Section 18 [Emergency Exemption] must have a copy of the approved Section 24(c) or Section 18 labeling in their possession at the time of use.
- Do not recommend mixing one or more pesticides unless the label gives directions for the combination or there is data available indicating that the combination will be compatible (i.e., will not clog nozzles or be phytotoxic to the crop). Persons who wish to mix pesticides whose compatibilities are unknown should be encouraged to perform a compatibility test or use the combination on a small scale.
- Keep up-to-date on label changes.
- Be informed of environmental issues in your area.
- Do not make a recommendation by "omission." If you have first-hand knowledge that a client has used or plans to use a pesticide "in a manner inconsistent with its labeling" and you voice no objection, your silence might be construed as a recommendation for the illegal use.
- When reporting research results of nonregistered pesticides at field days, meetings, or in printed materials, be certain to inform the audience, verbally or in the printed material, that the pesticide or uses in question are not currently registered or labeled for use.
- The following statement should be included in publications containing pesticide recommendations: "The pesticide information presented in this publication was current with federal and state regulations at the time of printing. The user is responsible for determining that the intended use is consistent with the label

of the product being used. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow the label directions."

- If you are uncertain of a recommendation, DO NOT MAKE IT.

## Fertilizer Recommendations

Persons making fertilizer recommendations have similar responsibilities to those making pesticide recommendations, even though fertilization applications are not regulated as are pesticide applications. Fertilization recommendations should take into consideration environmental and management factors which will influence:

- the nutritional benefit of the fertilizer to plants and
- the potential adverse effects such as environmental degradation.

Soil test levels of nutrients, water management practices, proximity to water bodies, potential runoff and leaching, fertilizer application techniques, as well as nutrient rates are factors to consider.

Recommendations must be consistent with the IFAS Standardized Fertilization Recommendation System.