

Never transfer excess
pesticide or fertilizer to
an empty food container.
A child or non-reader
may be poisoned
accidentally!



4. Store pesticides safely

Use approved management techniques for storing pesticides safely.

- Locate your storage area where clean-up materials (absorbents, water) will be near at hand.
- Keep pesticides in their original containers. A legible product label must be attached to the chemical container.
- Do not store pesticides with or near food, medicine, or cleaning supplies.
- Do not store pesticides with or near seed or animal feed.
- Do not store flammable materials with pesticides.
- Organize the materials in storage so they are accessible and visible.
- Place opened containers in clear plastic bags or see-through plastic ware. This will allow for easy identification of products while containing leaks and helping to avoid accidental spills.
- Mark all containers with the date of purchase. Keep a written inventory of materials on hand and use older chemicals first. A storage inventory helps in planning purchases next season. Useful records may include product name, active ingredient, date of purchase, record of use, and date and volume stored.
- Routinely inspect your storage area. Check containers for damage or leaks. Dispose of unwanted or outdated material according to the label recommendations.

For more information on selection, planting, cultural practices, and environmental quality, contact your local Iowa State University Extension county office. If you want to learn more about horticulture through training and volunteer work, ask your Extension office for information about the Extension Master Gardener program.

Originally produced by the Department of Horticulture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, in cooperation with the Chemical, Drug, and Pesticide Unit, of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. Adapted for use in Iowa by ISU Extension horticulturists and ISU communication specialists.



File: Hort and LA 2

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa. 12/99

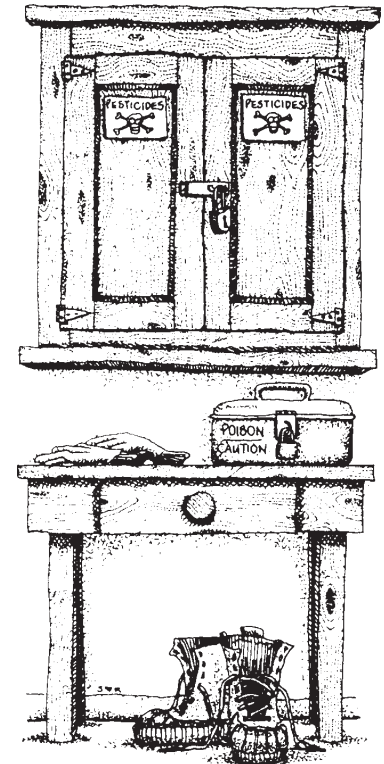
... and justice for all

The Iowa Cooperative Extension Service's programs and policies are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination. Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients.

RG 205 | Reprinted | March 1997

REIMAN
GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Store Pesticides Safely



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

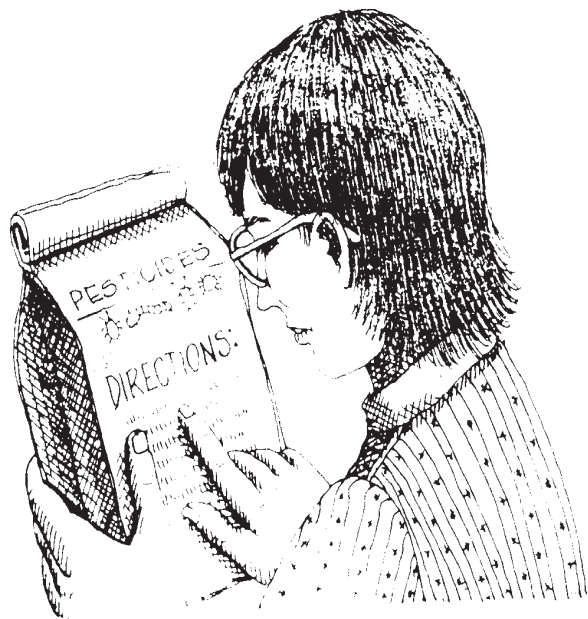
University Extension

Proper storage of synthetic and botanical pesticides is important for many reasons, especially protecting human health, preserving the environment, and maintaining chemical effectiveness. One way to minimize storage problems is through good planning.

1. Buy only the amount of pesticide that you need for a specific job or for the current growing season

The smaller volume containers, even though they may be more expensive ounce for ounce, are often the “best buy” because they eliminate waste and the need for storage space.

If you need to store pesticides on your property, follow these guidelines—for safety’s sake.



2. Always read the pesticide label for specific storage requirements

The chemical and the container in which it is purchased must be maintained in good condition. This is necessary to ensure that the material remains useful, and to avoid environmental or human health hazards.

3. Design a pesticide storage area

Design or designate a pesticide storage area that meets the following requirements

- easy to lock;
- well-ventilated;
- properly lighted when in use;
- dry—protected both from flooding and high humidity;
- protected from extreme heat and freezing;
- spacious enough to allow for separation of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and fertilizers if all these types of materials are to be stored; and
- enclosed in such a manner that leaks and/or spills may be contained and cleaned without compromising the soil and water quality in the vicinity.

Storage areas must be designed so that there is no danger of chemicals being washed into local water supplies by flooding or by accidental spills into water drains.



The storage area must be designed to keep out unwanted visitors, especially children and animals. Good lighting and ventilation are important to protect the health of anyone working in the storage area. Proper ventilation also can prevent chemicals from affecting other materials in storage. It is essential to store pesticides where their fumes cannot invade areas used by people or pets. Group stored chemicals by type as a precaution against contamination.

Dampness is a serious problem since it reduces the shelf life of many chemicals and causes metal and paper containers to decompose.

Temperature extremes can cause physical or chemical changes to pesticide products. Such changes may make the product ineffective and/or cause plant injury. Heat makes chemicals more volatile and unstable. Freezing can cause some types of containers to break open. If specific temperature ranges are required for proper storage, they will be printed on the product label.

Finally, the site must be designed to contain, or stop the further spread of, any spills and/or leaks.

