

degree of protection. Wet clothing provides no protection. Pesticides rapidly penetrate wet clothing.

Dry plants

Plants must be dry when work begins. After spraying, the chances of getting pesticide on the skin are greater if the plants are wet than if they are dry. Working with dry plants can also pose a risk, however. Some pesticides that have dried on the surface of a plant can dissolve in water, for example, if hands are moist.

Wet skin absorbs pesticides up to 10 times more rapidly than dry skin.

Personal hygiene

Personal hygiene is important. Be sure to wash hands and underarms frequently, and always before a break. Also wash hands before smoking or eating as well as when going to the lavatory. This will ensure that you have no pesticide residue on your hands.

The necessary and mandatory health, safety and welfare facilities, such as sinks, must be easily accessible.

Pregnancy

Pregnant women may not work directly with chemical pesticides.

Guidelines for when pregnant women may be in a greenhouse after spraying, handle treated plants with chemically resistant gloves and handle plants without wearing gloves can be found at www.gravidigartneri.dk (in Danish).

The website is for pregnant women who work in a market garden using pesticides. Click on a product, an active substance or a type of pesticide and read about how to protect your unborn child.

Also be aware of the special provisions for the use of pesticides suspected of disrupting the endocrine system. See *Miljøstyrelsens retningslinier for anvendelse af hormonforstyrrende bekæmpelsesmidler* (LINK) (in Danish).



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Re-entry



Industry guide on precautions
to be taken when working
with pesticide-treated plants in
greenhouse market gardens.

Foreword

The Agricultural Council for Safety and Health at Work under the Danish Industry Working Environment Council, Farm to Fork (Jordbrugets Arbejdsmiljøudvalg, Branchearbejdsmiljørådet (BAR) Jord til Bord), has published this industry guide to provide a short description of the precautions to be taken when working with pesticide-treated plants in greenhouses. The aim is to ensure that all work is performed in full compliance with health and safety standards.

Studies indicate that working with pesticide-treated plants can be hazardous to health if the necessary precautions are not taken.

The Danish Working Environment Authority (Arbejdstilsynet) has reviewed this guide and finds its contents to be consistent with Danish health and safety legislation. The Authority has evaluated the guide only in terms of its actual content, without considering the extent to which it covers all relevant topics within the area concerned. The Authority makes further reservation for technological development. The guide has also been submitted to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (Miljøstyrelsen) for consultation.

An electronic version of the guide is available at www.barjordtilbord.dk.

*For the Agricultural Council for Safety and Health at Work:
Vagn Henriksen, United Federation of Danish Workers
(Fagligt Fælles Forbund, 3F)
Johnny Ulf Larsen, Association of Employers in Horticulture,
Agriculture and Forestry,
(Gartneri-, Land- og Skovbrugets Arbejdsgivere, GLS-A)*

Planning and Preparation

In general, work should be planned, prepared and performed in full compliance with health and safety standards.

Work with plants treated with pesticides in greenhouses must be prepared and performed in a manner that prevents exposure to the harmful effects of pesticides.

Work preparation must include an assessment of the health hazards, and measures for avoiding these hazards must be established. A workplace assessment of specific chemical risks must include pesticide use.

After spraying

After a culture has been sprayed, there is a risk of exposure to the pesticides through inhalation and contact with the skin. There are no fixed guidelines establishing when plants can again be safely handled without the use of personal protective equipment. This depends on the substance used.

With regard to the risk of inhalation, as a rule it is considered safe to work in the greenhouse 48 hours after spraying, unless otherwise stated in the workplace safety instructions and on the condition that the treated area is thoroughly ventilated after the spraying.

However, special provisions apply to the use of pesticides suspected

of disrupting the endocrine system. See Miljøstyrelsens retningslinier for anvendelse af hormonforstyrrende bekæmpelsesmidler (LINK) (in Danish).

The employer must prepare a set of workplace safety instructions covering the business' local conditions for pesticide use. This can be done on the basis of the safety data sheets provided by the supplier (the supplier's safety instructions).

The supplier's safety data sheets must state when an area treated with pesticides can safely be re-entered, and work with the plants can be done without protection. Substances from a supplier should only be used if information stating when work can safely be resumed without protective equipment is provided.

As an employee, you are always responsible for following the employer's instructions for the correct use and handling of pesticides.

Signage and instructions

The employer must ensure that employees do not inadvertently enter the treated greenhouses before they are completely safe from a health standpoint. This must be done by posting signs and possibly by closing some areas off.

An employer has an obligation to instruct employees on how to perform their work safely. The employer is also obliged to make personal protective equipment available, instruct employees in its use and ensure it is used correctly. Similarly, the employer must ensure that the protective equipment is cleaned, maintained or replaced and thus always intact and stored correctly.

Provisions

The scope and nature of a given task determine which precautions must be taken.

Workplace safety instructions

Carefully read and follow the workplace safety instructions for the substance used. Make sure that you always receive understandable instructions. This is your employer's responsibility.



Proper personal protective equipment and special work clothing must be used when work cannot be safely done in any other way.

Gloves

Proper gloves must be worn any time there is a risk of getting pesticides on the hands.

Disposable gloves are important personal protective equipment. Be aware that gloves must be resistant to the pesticide used. Gloves made of nitrile are resistant to many chemical effects.

The workplace safety instructions will provide employees with information on which gloves are best suited for work with the relevant pesticide.

Employers can obtain information about which gloves to purchase for work with a certain pesticide from the safety data sheet for the pesticide and in the directions for use that come with the gloves.

As their name implies, disposable gloves may be used only once. Thus, they must be thrown away every time they are removed from the hands and when they are punctured or torn. Handwashing with soap and water is recommended when gloves are changed and before breaks.

Ordinary latex gloves do not provide an effective barrier against chemical pesticides and must therefore not be used. This also applies to ordinary work gloves made of leather, textiles or plastic, which provide no protection from chemical pesticides either.

Wearing a thin cotton glove, possibly fingerless, inside the disposable glove is recommended when gloves are used for extended periods, as the cotton will absorb moisture and sweat.

Apron

Be aware of which parts of the body risk contact with the treated plants. Use the appropriate apron if you are working in between tables or have to lean in over the plants.

Use a waterproof apron, but be sure to wear dry cotton clothing beneath the apron. Never wear an apron directly on the skin. Keeping the apron or the protective clothing dry provides a certain