



Pesticide Use in Yukon

Pesticides are a special group of harmful chemicals designed to control the population of species that are considered pests. The term pesticide includes chemicals that control insects (insecticides), plants (herbicides) or rodents (rodenticides). Only small amounts of pesticides are used in Yukon due to our cold climate and relatively small agriculture sector. The largest single use of pesticides is for the control of mosquitoes and biting flies.

The active ingredients in pesticides are often effective in very small amounts. For example, a common rodenticide, bromodiolone, is sold in formulations of 0.005% active ingredient. Because pesticides can be lethal in small quantities, they require special regulation and close monitoring.

Pesticide Types

The mosquito control program run by both municipal and the territorial governments uses the biological control agent (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) under the trade name Vectobac 200G to kill mosquito larvae in the spring. At times, malathion has been used to control adult mosquitoes.

Some pesticide products are available for sale for at stores for domestic use, such as weed control (e.g., Roundup) and mosquito coils. Other insecticides allowed to be used in Yukon are diazinon, chlorpyrifos, borax, allethrin, and pyrethrins. These products target common household pests such as ants, roaches, silverfish, flies and wasps, and garden pests such as cutworms and aphids.

Rodenticide formulations are used by exterminators to eliminate mice, especially from businesses carrying food products. The most common rodenticides are bromodiolone, chlorophacinone, and warfarin.

Herbicides are sometimes used to control vegetation in right-of-ways and utility areas. The products used for vegetation control are primarily Round-up (glyphosate) and Killlex (2,4-D, mecoprop, dicamba). Landscapers, government, and utilities are the major users of herbicides and may need to have a permit for these activities.

Wood preservatives are also considered pesticides. These products are applied to buildings and power poles to prevent insect damage. These products include creosote, zinc naphthenate, and copper naphthenate.

The major repellants used to discourage pets from getting into garbage or gardens are methyl nonyl ketone, ammonium saccharides, ammonium soaps, and naphthalene. Some formulations are designed to repel flying insects from human skin. Naphthalene is used to discourage bears from disturbing cached gear.

Neonicotinoids

Neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides used to control insects. Neonicotinoids are most often used as a coating on corn and soybean seeds to prevent insects from eating the seeds when they are first planted, and on bedding plants that are sold in nurseries. The following products are considered to be neonicotinoids: Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiocloprid and Thiamethoxam.

Neonicotinoids have been associated with declines in bee populations and are controlled or banned in some jurisdictions. It is very unlikely that any neonicotinoids or treated seed have been used in Yukon because farmers here seldom plant corn or soybean crops. The Yukon government is working with local nurseries and garden retailers to determine if neonicotinoid-treated bedding plants are available in Yukon. In the meantime, consumers are encouraged to ask their local supplier of bedding plants whether they are free of neonicotinoids.

Rules and Regulations

Pesticide use in Yukon is covered by both Canadian and Yukon laws. Pesticides were first regulated in 1927 under the federal *Agricultural Pests' Control Act*, which was amended and renamed the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA) in 1939. The most recent substantive amendments to the PCPA were made in 1985.

In July 1994, Yukon's [Pesticides Regulations](#) were passed under the *Environment Act*. These regulations require permits for certain activities including selling or applying pesticides. For more information about permit requirements, please see the Environmental Programs factsheets on the [Pesticide webpage](#):

- Pesticides Regulations
- Pesticide Vendor Permits
- Pesticide Service Permits
- Pesticide Use Permits
- Pesticide Applicator Certificates
- Adult Mosquito Control
- Rodent Problems

For more information on Pesticides or the Pesticides Regulations, please contact:

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Copies of Yukon regulations may be viewed online at www.env.gov.yk.ca/environment-you/Environment_Act.php or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, or by mail from the Subscriptions Clerk, Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone (867) 667-5783 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 extension 5783).