

# New EPA Requirements for Paraquat Products

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syngenta

CLASSIFICATION: PUBLIC

TM

# Overview of Paraquat Use

- First registered for use in the United States in 1964
- A fast-acting, broad-spectrum, contact herbicide
- Used as a burndown treatment (before planting and in non-agricultural lands) and as a crop desiccant
- Application flexibility due to:
  - ✓ Effectiveness under low temperatures and when weeds are not actively growing
  - ✓ Rainfastness
  - ✓ Deactivation by tight adsorption to clay particles, allowing it to be applied immediately before planting crops or before seedling emergence
- Important in no-till programs
- Important for control of herbicide-resistant weeds

# Why are changes coming to paraquat products?

- Currently undergoing registration review (15-year cycle)
- EPA published its “Paraquat Human Health Mitigation Decision” in December 2016.
- In it, EPA stated: “...there is a disproportionately high number of deaths resulting from the accidental ingestion of paraquat compared to similar pesticides. ***The accidental ingestion incidents often result from paraquat being stored in beverage containers, contrary to clear label language prohibiting transfer into other containers*** [emphasis added].”

# Fatal Consequences of Accidental Paraquat Ingestion

- In 2016, EPA indicated that illegally transferring paraquat to beverage containers resulted in accidental ingestion that led to the deaths of 17 people since 2000 – 3 of them children.

# Cases\* of Fatal Accidental Paraquat Ingestion

- In 2000, a 15-month-old boy ingested paraquat that had been transferred into a sports-drink bottle and stored inappropriately. He survived in the hospital for 13 days while receiving aggressive treatment but later died.
- In 2008, an 8-year-old boy drank paraquat that was in a soft-drink bottle that he found on a window sill in the garage. He died in the hospital 16 days later. His older brother had gotten it from a certified applicator, used it on weeds around the house, and then put it in the bottle in the garage.
- In 2013, a 70-year-old female unknowingly ingested some paraquat from an iced tea bottle. She went to the hospital awake and alert with persistent vomiting. Over 16 days in the hospital, her condition evolved into the classic picture of paraquat ingestion, leading to death.

\*Source of incident information: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-one-sip-can-kill>

# Risk Mitigation Measures for Paraquat

- Label changes & supplemental warning materials
- Targeted training materials for paraquat users
- Restricting the use of all paraquat products to *certified applicators only* (i.e., prohibiting use by uncertified persons working under the supervision of a certified applicator)
- Closed-system packaging for all non-bulk (< 120-gallon) end-use product containers

Source: *Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision*, December 15, 2016

# Timeline for Required Paraquat Changes

Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision Implementation Timeline		
Activity	Original Date/Deadline	Updated Date/Deadline
Publication of Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision	December 2016	Completed
<b>Phase 1</b>		
<b>Label Amendments Submission Deadline</b> (To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Label Statements Highlighting Toxicity</li> <li>• Certified Applicator Only Statement</li> <li>• EPA-Approved Paraquat Training Program Statement)</li> </ul>	March 30, 2017	Completed
Supplemental Warning Materials Submission Deadline	March 30, 2017	
Draft Training Materials Submission Deadline	March 30, 2017	
<b>Phase 2</b>		
<b>Finalized Training Materials Submission Deadline</b>	March 30, 2018	March 30, 2018 ✓
Closed System Schematic/Prototype Submission Deadline	March 30, 2018	March 30, 2018
<b>Last Date for Sale/Distribution of Paraquat Products which do not Comply with Phase 1 (Label Amendments &amp; Supplemental Warning Materials)</b>	September 30, 2018	12 months from Phase 1 label stamped date
<b>Phase 3</b>		
Deadline for Applications for Label Amendments/New Product Registrations to Comply with Closed System Requirement	March 30, 2019	March 30, 2019
<b>Last Date for Sale/Distribution of Paraquat Products which do not Comply with Phase 3 (Closed System Requirement)</b>	September 30, 2020	12 months from Phase 3 label stamped date

Source: Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision, December 15, 2016 (Amended February 6, 2018):  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0119>

# Timeline for Phase 2 Paraquat Changes

- Registrants had until March 30, 2018, to submit finalized training materials.
- Registrants will be prohibited from the sale or distribution of paraquat products with labeling inconsistent with Phase 1 of the *Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision* as of 12 months from the date the Phase 1 label amendments are stamped “approved.”
- Persons other than the registrant may continue to sell and/or use existing stocks of products with the previously approved labeling until such stocks are exhausted, provided that such use is consistent with the terms of the previously approved labeling.



# Paraquat Label Changes

- Syngenta product label amendments were submitted to EPA. We anticipate that they will be stamped any day (subject to change).
- Supplemental labels were not submitted by Syngenta.
- Additions to paraquat labels include\*:
  - ✓ Statements highlighting paraquat toxicity
  - ✓ “Certified Applicator Only” statement
  - ✓ EPA-approved paraquat training program statement with link to training

\*Source: Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision, December 15, 2016 (Amended February 6, 2018):  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0119>

# Paraquat Supplemental Materials (in English, Spanish, and pictogram format) include:

- Product Package Safety Requirements stickers on each paraquat container on the side opposite the label
- Counter cards with warning information for people who purchase paraquat
- A cap sticker with a warning and



Source: Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision, December 15, 2016 (Amended January 12, 2017):  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0115>

# Paraquat Training Program

- Only certified applicators who successfully complete an EPA-approved paraquat training program will be able to legally use paraquat.
  - ✓ Per EPA requirements, the paraquat training program has been developed by all paraquat registrants. Final approval is pending.
  - ✓ The training program will be available via an internet link included on all end-use paraquat product labels in the new “Certified Applicator Training” section.
  - ✓ All paraquat applicators will be required to take the training once label amendments have been finalized and the link is available on the label.
  - ✓ All persons handling paraquat are expected to take the training every 3 years and retain documentation of successful completion.

Source: Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision, December 15, 2016 (Amended January 12, 2017):

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0115>

# What about state paraquat training programs?

- In cases where state-based certified applicator training programs adequately address the required aspects of an EPA-approved paraquat training program, they may be determined to be equivalent training materials.

Source: Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision, December 15, 2016 (Amended January 12, 2017):

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0115>

# Key Points of Paraquat Training Program

- Acute toxicity of paraquat through all routes of exposure.
- **Emphasis on never transferring paraquat into another container**
- Examples and consequences of misuse
- What to do in case of accidental exposure
- Summary of what has changed as a result of the paraquat human health mitigation decision

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# Closed-System Requirement

- 12 months from the “Phase 3 label stamped date” is the last day for registrants to sell or distribute paraquat products that do not comply with the closed-system requirement.
- The closed-system requirement only applies to non-bulk end-use paraquat products.
- Persons other than registrants may continue to sell and/or use existing stocks of paraquat products with the previously approved labeling until such stocks are exhausted, provided that such use is consistent with the terms of the previously approved labeling.

## EPA will grant research exemptions from the closed-system requirement and the 'certified-applicator only' requirement.

- EPA recognizes that paraquat is widely used in agricultural research as a standard burndown and desiccant treatment to which other herbicides and desiccants are compared.
- EPA will consider, on a case-by-case basis, applications for products which are specific for research use.
- These products should contain appropriate labeling, be of an appropriate size, and should include registrant assurance of controlled distribution.

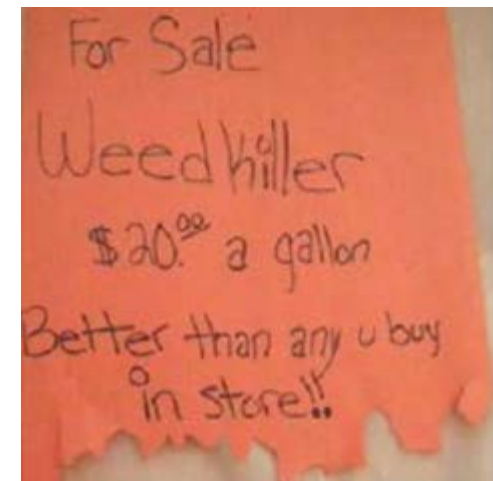
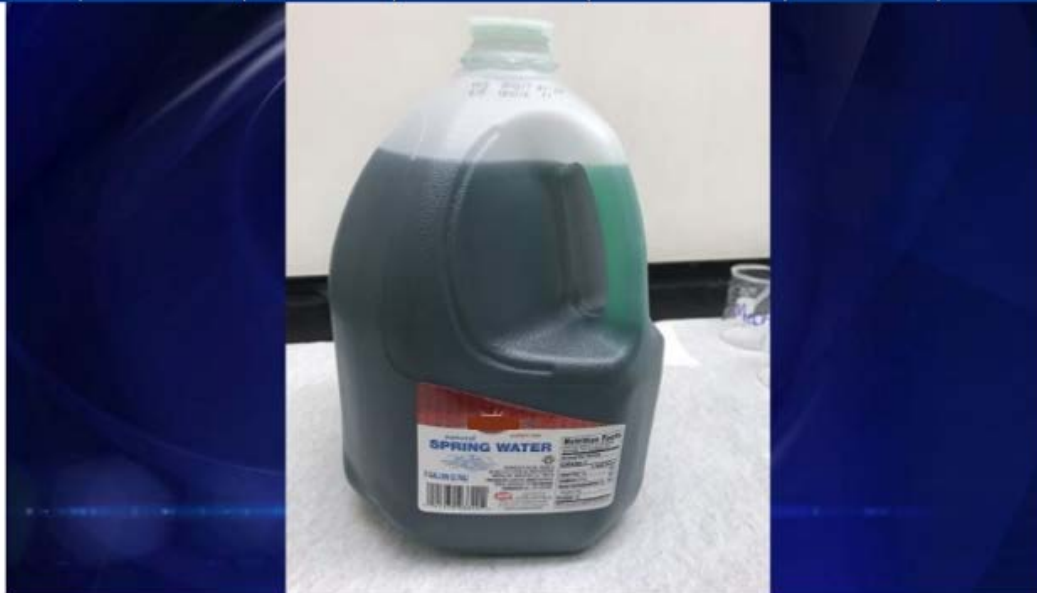
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# Hand-held and Backpack Equipment

- EPA is permitting the continued use of hand-held and backpack application equipment, so long as they comply with EPA-approved closed-system technology.
- Paraquat products intended for hand-held and backpack equipment should contain an indicator dye to aid in early detection of paraquat leaks and spills.
- EPA is aware that *there are no paraquat products currently available that meet these criteria*, so EPA is allowing a two-year period for registrants to develop products that would meet these criteria.

Source: Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision, December 15, 2016 (Amended January 12, 2017):  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0115>



Home / Indiana

## Water Jugs Filled with Lethal Pesticide Sold in Spencer County

JUNE 8TH, 2017 CHELSEA KOEBLER INDIANA



Some customers in Rockport may have gotten more than what they bargained for. One gallon jugs of lethal pesticide was sold as advertised weed killer.