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Follow the Label!

It's often been said that the label is the law when it comes to pesticide programs, and it's true. The label of any pesticide – insecticide, herbicide, or fungicide – is approved for a reason, and that reason is typically based on a combination of factors, including efficacy trials and limitations suggested by the producing company. For that reason, following label directions is extremely important. Failure to do so can eliminate any product warranty that may be available and worse yet, will render the product ineffective or cause damage to the crop.

It's not unheard of for a product label to be lost or damaged. If that occurs, track down a new one! There are a number of searchable label websites through which you can find a new one. Company websites or the purchasing store may also be able to provide one for you. However you can, make sure you find one so you can apply appropriately.

Appropriate pesticide product management is important! Labels and product guidelines are designed to help prevent drift damage and pesticide resistance. Failure to adhere to labels can result in the eventual loss of product availability. Follow the label!

Home Vegetable Garden Herbicide Programs

For most home gardeners, a little hoeing and some mulch will typically take care of most of the weed pressure they have to deal with. For larger areas, that may not be the case, and some help from a herbicide program may be of value. There is a single preemergence herbicide option with the active ingredient trifluralin. Preemergence products kill weeds as they germinate, having no effect in emerged weeds, so they must be applied prior to weeds coming up. Trifluralin is the active ingredient in products like Treflan, Preen, Miracle-Gro Garden Weed Preventer, Gordon's Garden Weed Preventer Granules and Monterey Vegetable and Ornamental Weeder.

The single postemergence herbicide option is sethoxydim. Sethoxydim is only a grass control product, so broadleaf weeds will not be affected. The benefit is that it can be sprayed directly over the top of many vegetables. Sethoxydim is sold under the trade names of Poast, Monterey Grass Getter, and Hi-Yield Grass Killer. Homeowner product labels do not typically cover as many products as commercial labels, so make sure you read and follow label directions as to which crops a product may be applied to and at what stage. A quick reference is available from your District Extension Office.

Controlling Weeds in Strawberries

Since strawberries form a mat of plants, hoeing may be difficult. That leaves one of two options: pull weeds by hand - or use herbicides. Unlike some vegetable crops, there are no weed preventer herbicide options for strawberries. On the postemergence side, sethoxydim is your option for spraying directly over the top of strawberries for grass control. Just be sure you don't apply within seven days of harvest!

You can find Poast in Fertilome Over the Top II, Hi-Yield Grass Killer and Monterey Grass Getter.