

Tom Starkey  
Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative  
Auburn University

# PESTICIDE FORMULATIONS



"I WANT A SPRAY THAT KILLS EVERYTHING  
BUT ISN'T DANGEROUS"

B.  
C.

I REFUSE TO PUT  
CHEMICALS ON MY  
FRUIT TREES!

GOOD GIRL.

THE  
BUG  
MAN

WHAT'S MY  
NEXT BEST  
BET?

DEVELOP A TASTE FOR WORMS.

THE  
BUG  
MAN

*Kurt*

# Objectives

- ① Define Pesticide Formulation
- ① Define the different formulations
- ① Discuss the pros and cons of each formulation

# What is a pesticide formulation?

- It is the composition of the pesticide (*a pesticide is rarely used as manufactured*)
- Made up of two parts -
  - a. Active ingredients - what controls the pest
  - b. Inert ingredients - filler material to spread out the active ingredient
- Made safer, more effective, easier to measure & use

# Dry Formulations



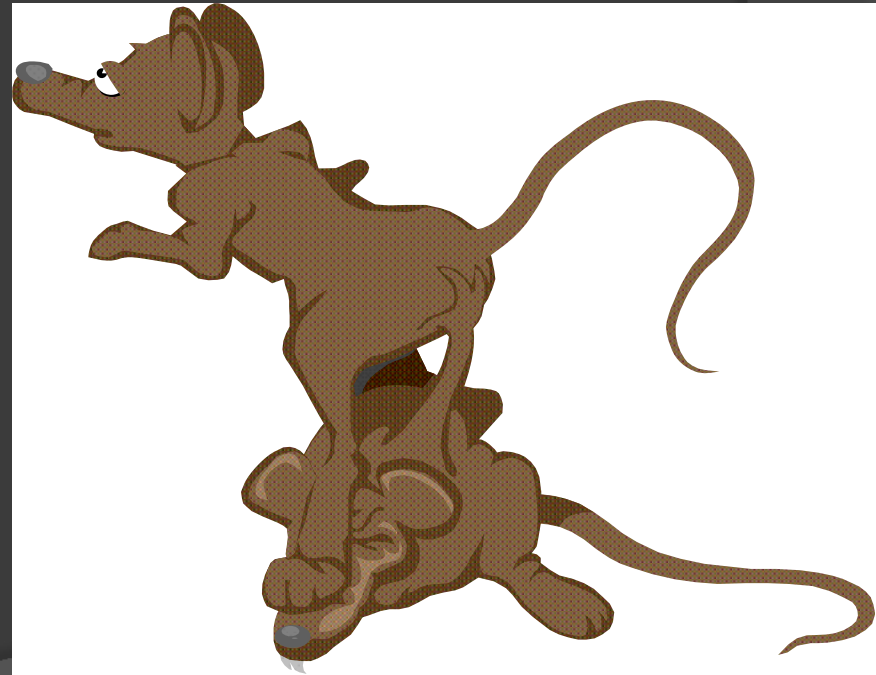
# Dusts (D)

- Finely ground, ready to use substance
- 0.5 - 10% Active Ingredient
- Must always be kept dry
- Potentially irritating to user
- No mixing, easy application
- Drift is a problem (no herbicides)
- Wind and rain can remove it quickly
- Expensive for amount of AI



# Baits (B)

- AI mixed with food or something that will attract pest.
- Usually used for insects or rodents
- May be attractive to non-target pests
- Dead pests may stink
- Cost high if repeated baiting needed
- AI < 5%





# Granules (G)

- 2 - 40% AI, applied to porous, solid material (clay, corn cobs, walnut shells)
- Applied as a liquid and absorbed
- Used to control pests in soil
- AI absorbed by plant roots
- Little dust or drift hazard
- Need incorporation
- May be eaten by non target animals
- May get trapped in some plants
- Never mix with water
- Expensive

# Pellets (P)

- Similar to Granules
- 10 - 20% AI + small inert carrier
- Usually extruded 1/8" to 1/2"
- Applied to soil – near desired plant
- Little dust or drift hazard
- May be eaten by non target animals
- Expensive

# Wettable Powders (WP W)

- Finely ground, dry formulation
- 5 - 95 % Active ingredient (usually >50%)
- Forms a suspension when mixed with water
  - Suspension—does not dissolve, requires constant agitation
- Abrasive to pumps
- Inhalation is potential problem
- Relatively inexpensive
- Generally safe on tender foliage
- Easy to measure

# Soluble Powders (SP WSP)

- 15 -95% AI (usually >50%)
- Dissolves in water to form true solution
- No extra mixing required (check)
- Inhalation is potential problem
- Relatively inexpensive
- Generally safe on tender foliage
- Easy to measure

# Water Dispersible Granules (WDG) & Dry Flowables (DF)

- 75 – 90% AI
- Like WP's, except in granular form
- Granules break apart when they hit water
- Requires constant agitation
- Less dust than WP's (EPA friendly)
- More easily measured and mixed than WP's
- Slightly more expensive than WP's

# Liquid Formulations



# Flowables (F)

- ⦿ Very fine powder in suspension of a liquid carrier
- ⦿ Generally mixed with water
- ⦿ High concentration of AI – 4 lbs/gallon of active ingredient
- ⦿ Same cons as WP's (except dust)
- ⦿ Must shake containers
- ⦿ Easy to handle
- ⦿ Reduce clog nozzles



# Emulsifiable Concentrates (EC)

- Liquid formulation
- Active ingredient dissolved in petroleum based solvent
- Emulsifier added so that oil can disperse in water
- Milky when added to water
- 2-8 lbs. active ingredient/g
- Relatively inexpensive
- Easy to handle
- Requires little agitation
- Non abrasive
- Does not plug nozzles
- Potential health problem (dermal)
- Potentially phytotoxic
- Equipment harder to clean

# Solutions (S)

- ⦿ Dissolve in a liquid solvent - premixed
- ⦿ Will not settle out
- ⦿ Used in sprayers, indoors & outdoors
- ⦿ Also called Ready-to-Use (RTU)
- ⦿ Small percentage AI ( $< 1\%$ )

# Ultra Low Volume (ULV)

- ⦿ 80 - 100% AI
- ⦿ Ready to use (or with very small amt water)
- ⦿ Phytotoxic hazard
- ⦿ Limited uses - outdoor

# Aerosols

- AI in dissolved in a solvent in a pressurized container
- Easy to use and store
- Low percentage AI
- High cost
- Inhalation injury possible
- Drift a problem
- Flammable!





**“Look at my wall! Can’t you tell the difference between bug killer and spray-paint?”**

# Fumigants

- ⦿ AI is either gas or liquid but becomes a gas when applied
- ⦿ Used in soil and closed structures
- ⦿ Toxic to wide range of pests
- ⦿ Penetrates cracks
- ⦿ One treatment enough
- ⦿ Must enclose area



**off the mark**.com

by Mark Parisi

ATLANTIC FEATURE © 1999 MARK PARISI

