

2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid (2,4-D) Fact Sheet

2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) is widely used to control weeds in agriculture, recreational areas, lawns and gardens, and along roadsides and railroad tracks.

2,4-D is found in

- Some home lawn products labeled as weed killers and for “weed and feed” use.
- Commercial weed control products used along roadsides and railroad tracks, and in recreational areas such as golf courses, athletic fields, and parks.
- Some herbicides for crops such as wheat, almonds, and some citrus and stone fruits.

Possible health concerns

Scientists are still studying how 2,4-D might affect people’s health. There is concern that 2,4-D:

- May interfere with the body’s natural hormones.
- May harm the developing fetus.
- May increase cancer risk.

Possible ways to reduce exposure

- Use non-chemical methods to control weeds, such as regular mowing and hand-weeding.
- If you choose to use a weed killer, spot-treat problem areas and follow warning statements on the label. After application:
 - Remove shoes before entering your house; remove clothes that are soiled during application and launder them separately.
 - Limit access to 2,4-D treated areas, at least until the product has completely dried; for children and pets, limit access for one to two days or longer if possible.
- Look for posted notices that indicate an area (such as a park or athletic field) has been treated with a weed killer and follow any precautions on the notice.

For more information:

Tips for healthy lawn care: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/factshts/lawn15.pdf>

Find local disposal site for pesticides: Visit <http://recyclenation.com/> and enter “Pesticides” and your zip code in the search box; or call 1-800-732-9254.