

PESTICIDE USE ON CANNABIS PLANTS

WHAT ARE PESTICIDES?

Pesticides are substances used for killing, repelling, or controlling pests (i.e., insects, weeds, molds, and bacteria) that are harmful to cultivated plants.

HOW CAN I USE PESTICIDES SAFELY?

Research pesticides both for their appropriateness for cannabis plants and their safety for use around household members before choosing one for your home cultivation. Only pesticides that pose little risk to human health or the environment should be considered for use, if used at all. Follow the directions on product labels, and test soil whenever possible.

CAN I PROTECT MY PLANTS WITHOUT PESTICIDES?

Consider organic, sustainable practices to reduce the threat of pests and maintain healthy soil and plants. Cannabis plants can be grown in a controlled environment indoors to limit exposure to unwanted pests. Certain bugs, such as ladybugs, eat pests that attack plants without harming the plants themselves.

ARE PESTICIDES HARMFUL TO HUMANS?

Though pesticides seem like an easy solution for pest removal, many are not approved to be used with cannabis consumption. Unwanted negative side effects can occur when chemicals are heated and inhaled. Some pesticides carry short- and long-term health risks, such as dizziness, nausea, rash, or death. How much pesticides effect different people changes based on length and type of exposure.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF IF I CHOOSE TO USE PESTICIDES?



1

Keep the growing area clean and well ventilated.

2

Limit the length of time you are exposed to pesticides.

3

Use protective gear to prevent inhalation and direct skin contact.

For additional educational resources, visit: cca.virginia.gov

