

# CONSUMER

# INFORMATION SHEET

CIS-6

## You and The Chesapeake Bay

# PESTICIDES

A pesticide is defined as any material that is applied to plants, soil, water, harvested crops, structures, clothing, furnishings, or animals to kill, attract, repel, regulate or interrupt the growth and mating of pests, or to regulate plant growth.

- The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide act , FIFRA, that regulates pesticides was enacted in 1947 and amended in 1972, 1975, 1978, and again in 1988. The law is administrated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA.
- Under FIFRA, EPA is responsible for registering and authorizing pesticide products for use in the United States. Pesticide registration is based on a detailed assessment of the potential effects of a product on human health and the environment when used according to labeled directions.
- There are two main classifications of pesticides: unrestricted use and restricted use.
- Restricted use pesticides may only be sold to certified applicators. A certified applicator is an individual who has been recognized (certified) by the State, tribe, territory, or agency responsible for regulating pesticides, as being competent to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides.
- FIFRA, as amended in 1996 by the Food Quality Protection Act, (FQPA) requires that all pesticides meet new safety standards. EPA must be able to conclude "with reasonable certainty" that no harm will come to infants, children or other sensitive individuals exposed to pesticides. All pesticide exposures from food, drinking water, and home and garden use, must be considered in determining allowable LEVELS IN FOOD.

**Use of Pesticides in Maryland:** Maryland Farmers are required to have private applicator licenses issued by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and attend recertification training every 3 years to apply restricted use pesticides and keep detailed records of application.

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## Keeping the Bay Blue

### PESTICIDES – **Fact or Fiction**

- Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides. - **Fact**
- Herbicides are applied to kill weeds. - **Fact**
- Herbicides allow farmers to use no-tillage to plant their crops. - **Fact**
- Insecticides are used to kill insects. - **Fact**
- Fungicides are used to kill fungus & molds. - **Fact**
- Farmers must keep records and attend classes to apply restricted use pesticides. - **Fact**

**YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR RESEARCH - BASED INFO.**

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