

**EPA REPORTS ON 1996-97 PESTICIDE USE
1.2 Billion Pounds of Pesticide Used in U.S.**

EPA compiles data about pesticide use from manufacturers. This fact sheet discusses some of the use patterns and quantities of pesticides used in the U.S. in 1996 and 1997 (the most recently reported).

The U.S. used approximately 1.2 billion pounds of pesticide active ingredient in 1996 and 1997--about the same as in 1995--according to a recent report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This total, which does not include chlorine, wood preservatives or speciality biocides, accounts for approximately 20% of world pesticide use--about .7 billion lbs. in 1997. In dollar terms, the U.S. accounts for nearly a third of pesticide purchases world wide. The majority--944 million lbs. (77%)--was used in agriculture, while industrial, commercial, and government applications accounted for 150 million lbs. (12%) and home and garden applications made by households accounted for 133 million lbs. (11%).

Weed killers were the most widely used class of pesticides, comprising 47.3% of U.S. applications by volume compared to insecticides (11.5%), fungicides (6.7%) and other pesticides (36%). Herbicides were also the most widely used class worldwide, accounting for 39% of use. While U.S. agricultural herbicide use has remained fairly stable since 1979, home and garden herbicide use increased from 33 million lbs. in 1979 to 49 million lbs. in 1997. (Data for home and garden use do not account for applications made by pest control companies or other hired pesticide applicators).

The report shows that U.S. pesticide use has declined some since a 1979 high of approximately 1.4 billion lbs., but that use has remained more or less steady since 1987. Farm use of conventional pesticides (a category that excludes certain pesticide chemicals such as sulfur and petroleum) peaked around 1980 at 850 million lbs., and has since varied between 658 million lbs. in 1987 and 779 million lbs. in 1997. In non-agricultural sectors, conventional pesticide use peaked in the late 1970's at approximately 300 million lbs. per year. Since then, use has declined to about 205 million lbs. in 1997.

On average, the U.S. produced about 1.3 billion lbs. of pesticides and imported an additional 200 million lbs. each year in 1996 and 1997. The U.S. exported approximately 500 million lbs. of pesticides each year during this period.

The following tables list the top conventional pesticides by sector.

Agriculture

Top ten conventional pesticides used in U.S. agricultural crop production by volume in 1997:

Pesticide Active Ingredient	Million Lbs.
1. Atrazine (H)	75-82
2. Metolachlor (H)	63-69
3. Metam Sodium (H)	53-58
4. Methyl Bromide (F)	38-45
5. Glyphosate (H)	34-38
6. Dichloropropene (F, I, N)	32-37
7. Acetochlor (H)	31-36

Pesticide Active Ingredient	Million Lbs.
8. 2,4-D (H)	29-33
9. Pendimethalin (H)	24-28
10. Trifluralin (H)	21-25

Home and Garden - 1995-96

Pesticide Active Ingredient	Million Lbs.
1. 2,4-D (H)	7-9
2. Glyphosate (H)	5-7
3. Dicamba (H)	3-5
4. MCPP (H)	3-5
5. Diazinon (I)	2-4
6. Chlorpyrifos (I)	2-4
7. Carbaryl (I)	1-3
8. Benefin (H)	1-3
9. Dacthal (H)	1-3

Industrial/Commercial/Government - 1995-96

Pesticide Active Ingredient	Million Lbs.
1. 2,4-D (H)	16-18
2. Glyphosate (H)	9-12
3. Copper Sulfate (F, A)	5-7
4. Chlorpyrifos (I)	4-7
5. MSMA (H)	4-5
6. Methyl Bromide (F)	3-6
7. Pendimethalin (H)	2-4
8. Chlorothalanil (F)	2-4
9. Malathion (I)	2-3

DowElanco Changes Name

DowElanco is now Dow AgroSciences since January 1st of 1998, according to an official company announcement of September 11, 1997. The move reflects the venture's new status as a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company. The name change follows the Dow Company's acquisition of Eli Lilly and Company's 40% interest in the venture. The two companies had joined their plant science businesses to form DowElanco in 1989. The U.S.-based company has more than \$2 billion in annual sales, and is also the majority owner of the biotechnology venture Mycogen.