



# **PESTICIDE FORMULATIONS, COMPATIBILITY & ADJUVANTS**



# What is a Formulation



- **How a pesticide is packaged.**
- **Contains:**
  - **Active Ingredient**
  - **Inert Ingredient**

# **Two types of formulations**

- **Wet**
- **Dry**

# **Types of formulations**

- **Wet**
  - **More easily absorbed**
- **Dry**
  - **More easily inhaled**



# Liquid Formulations

- **EC –Emulsifiable Concentrate**
- **S - Soluble**
- **ULV – Ultra Low Volume**
- **F or FL - Flowables**
- **ME – Micro-Encapsulated**
- **RTU – Ready To Use**



# Dry Formulations

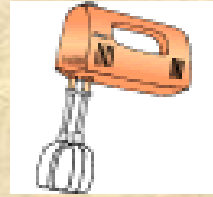
- **WP – Wettable powder**
- **DF – Dry Flowable**
- **WDG – Water Dispersable Granule**
- **D - Dust ✓**
- **P or G – Pellets or Granules ✓**
- **M or ME – Micro-Encapsulated**

**RTU's ?**

# Effects of Different Formulations

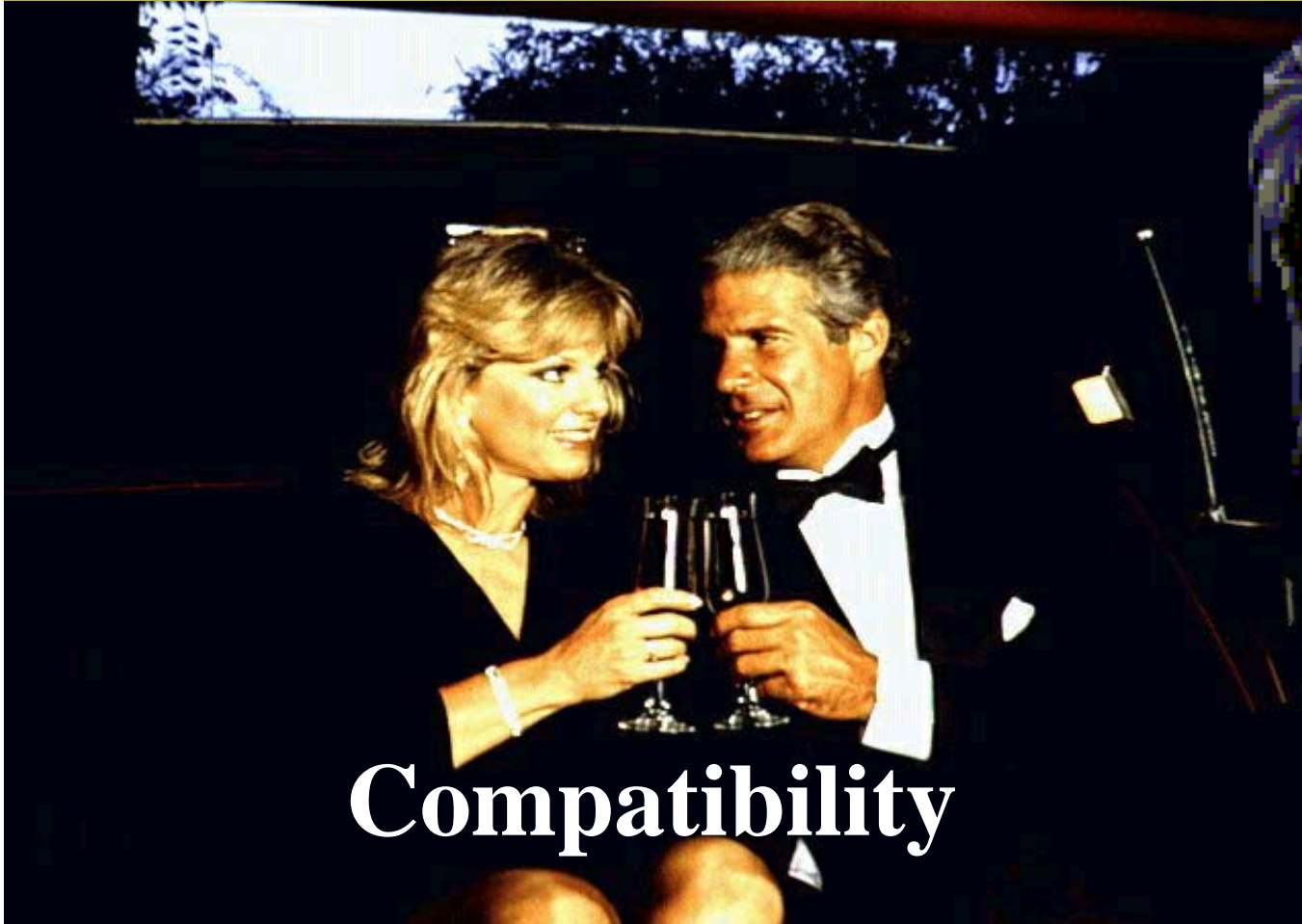
Formulation	Hazards	Phytox	Equipment	Agitate	Compatible
<b>WP</b>	<b>Inhale</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>abrasive</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>DF/WDG</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>abrasive</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>SP</b>	<b>Dusts</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Non-abrasive</b>	<b>Some</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>G or P</b>	<b>Inhale</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>F or FL</b>	<b>Dermal</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>abrasive</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>Dermal</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Non-abrasive</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Inhale</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>EC</b>	<b>Dermal</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>Seals, gaskets</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>M or ME</b>	<b>Dermal</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Generally ok</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Fair</b>

# Mixing Order



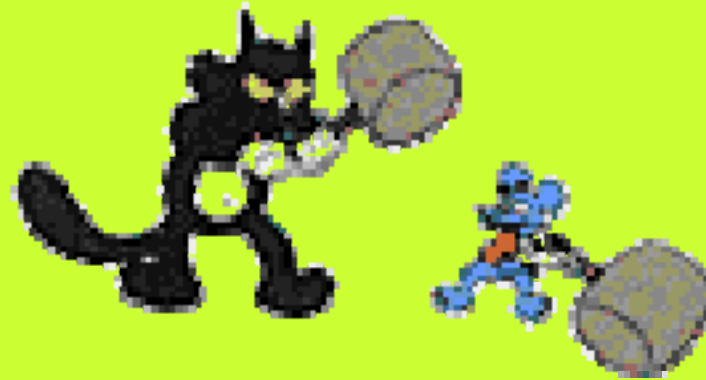
- Fertilizer based surfactants first and compatibility agents
- **W**ettable Powders, Dry flowables
- **A**gitate
- **L**iquid formulations, Solubles
- **E**mulsifiable concentrates
- **S**oluble powders & Remaining **S**urfactants

# Pesticide Interaction



**Compatibility**

# Read the Label



## **Four Types of Interactions**

- **Additive effects**
- **Synergistic responses**
- **Antagonism**
- **Enhancement**

# 1. Additive Effects

- **Mixing of 2 or more pesticides**
- **Same response when used alone**
- **Ease of mixing**
- **Reduces # of field passes**
- **Example: root absorbed herbicide with a foliar absorbed.**

## **2. Synergistic Response**

- **Confused with Additive effects**
- **Greater response when mixed.**
- **True interaction between chemicals**
- **Example:**
  - Piperonyl butoxide and pyrethrums**
  - 2,4-D and glyphosate**

# **3. Antagonism**

- **Less control when 2 or more chemicals are mixed**
- **May also increase phytotoxicity**
- **Example:**
  - **mixing of some grass and broadleaf herbicides (Diclofop and 2,4-D)**
  - **Assert and Curtail**

# Antagonism - pH Effects

- **Mixing Assert and Curtail**
  - Assert works best at pH 4
  - Curtail is an amine; raises the pH to 7 when mixed with Assert
  - Assert precipitates out
  - Use Curtail M (an ester)



## **4. Enhancement**

- **When a pesticide is mixed with an additive to provide greater response.**
- **Crop Safeners**
  - **Everest & phenoxy**
- **Adjuvants**

# Two Types of Incompatibility

## 1. Physical

## 2. Chemical

- **Physical** - inert ingredients.
  - Flaking, crystals form sludge, clogs equipment.  
EC with WP, oil based surfactant and WP
- **Chemical** - deactivation of active ingredient due to pH, temperature, pesticide chemistries

# **Water Quality-Minerals & pH**

- **Hard Water**
- **Soft Water**
- **Other Minerals**

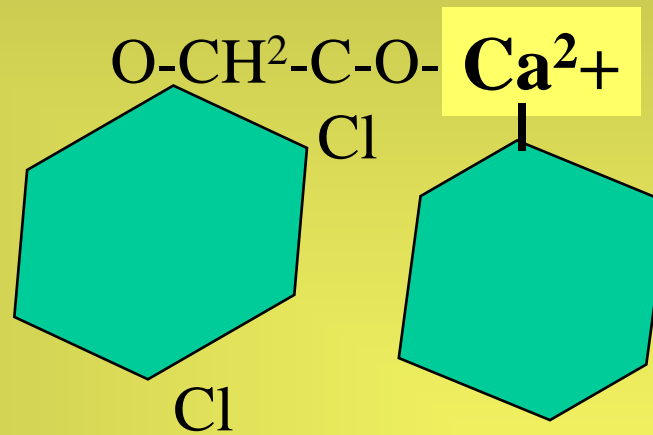


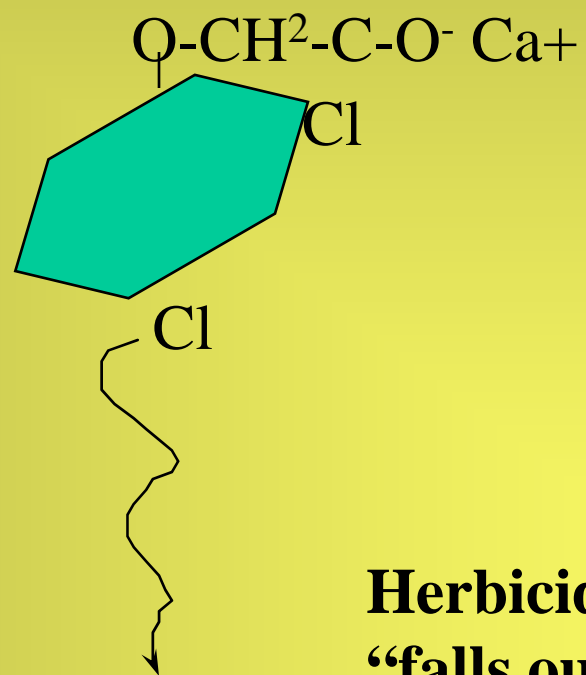
# Water Quality – Hardness

- **Hard Water –Ca<sup>+</sup> and mg<sup>+</sup>**
  - ppm or grains
  - Affect salt-based herbicides – Roundup, 2,4-D.

# Salt-based herbicide or a surfactant

## Calcium replaces the sodium





**Herbicide  
“falls out”**



# Water Quality – Hardness

- Use max rate or ~~reduce carrier volume~~
- Severe hard water (Roundup) - add ammonium sulfate (AMS) or spray-grade water conditioner
- Severe hard water (2,4-D & other salt based herbicides)
  - adjuvants
  - Avoid salt based herbicides

# Water Quality

- **Alkaline Hydrolysis – effect of high pH**
- **Organophosphate and carbamate pesticides degrade in pH >7.**

## Organophosphates

- **Malathion/Parathion**
- **Dorsban/Lorsban**
- **Diazinon**

## Carbamates

- **Sevin**
- **Lannate**

## pH and Pesticides

<b>Trade name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>pH</b>	<b>Half-life</b>
<b>Furadan</b>	<b>Carbofuran</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>78 hours</b>
		<b>6.0</b>	<b>8 days</b>
<b>Sevin</b>	<b>Carbaryl</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24 hours</b>
		<b>7</b>	<b>24 days</b>
<b>Malathion</b>	<b>Malathion</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>35 days</b>
		<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.0 hours</b>
<b>Imidan</b>	<b>Phosmet</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>13 days</b>
		<b>7.0</b>	<b>&lt; 12 hours</b>



# Water Quality – Low pH

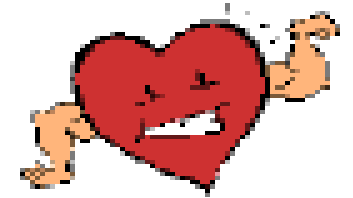
- **pH 5-7 is optimum for most herbicides.**
- **Acid Hydrolysis**
- **Sulfonyl Urea herbicides degrade in acidic environments.**
  - **Ally and Escort**
- **Most sulfonyl ureas are stable in pH > 7.9**

# Timing of application

**Timing (or lack of) is another form  
of incompatibility**

# Compatibility Test

- **A small scale test using a 1 quart jar**
- **Proportions**
  - **1 teaspoon per pint = 1 pint per 100 gallons of water**
- **Check for lumps, clumps, gunk, goop, glop, heat**



## Adjuvants



Additives that  
improve  
performance or  
offset problems

# Adjuvants include:

- **Acidifiers -neutralize alkaline solutions & lower pH.**
- **Buffering agents - stabilize the pH of spray solutions.**
- **Anti-foaming agents**
- **Compatibility agents**
- **Deposition aids**
- **Drift control agents**
- **Many surfactants (surface-acting agents)**

## **Four Groups of Adjuvants**

- **Surfactants/wetting agents**
- **Oils**
- **Fertilizers**
- **Utility**

# Surfactants

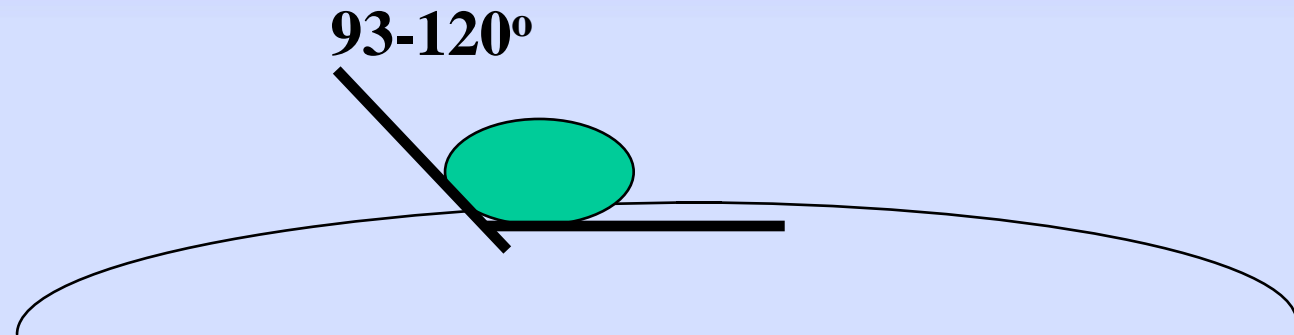
- **A broad category of adjuvants that facilitate and enhance the absorbing, spreading, sticking, wetting and penetrating properties of pesticides.**
- **Most pesticides like Roundup Pro already have surfactants added. (14.5 %)**
- **Generally used for less than optimum conditions**

# Why Surfactants?

- **Breaking surface tension**
- **Penetration and absorption**

## **Contact Angle of water alone**

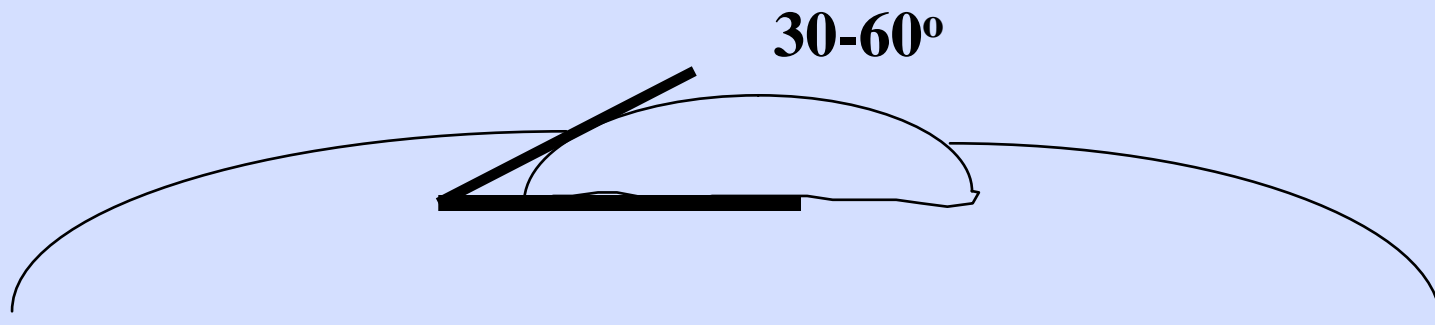
- \* 93 to 120 degrees**
- \* Water has a high surface tension**



- \* Droplets tend to “stand” up**
- \* Less absorption, more degradation**

## **Contact Angle with a surfactant:**

- \* 30 to 60 degrees.**
- \* More leaf surface is covered**



# **1. Surfactants/wetting agents**

- **Nonionic Surfactants**
- **Silicone compounds**

# **1. Surfactants/wetting agents**

## **Non-ionic Surfactants**

- **Composed of alcohols and fatty acids**
- **Non-ionic = no charge**
- **Reduces surface tension**
- **Improves spreading, sticking and herbicide uptake**
- **All purpose**

# **1. Surfactants/wetting agents**

## **Silicones**

- **Blend of silicone & non-ionic surfactants: some are entirely silicone**
- **Big reduction in surface tension.**
- **Spread more than conventional surfactants –too fast??**

## **2. Oils**

### **Crop Oil Concentrates (COC)**

- **Blend of paraffin based petroleum oil and surfactants**
- **15-20% non-ionic surfactant; 80-85% emulsifiable crop oil**
- **Provides penetration characteristics of crop oil and surface tension reducing qualities of the NIS**
- **Used primarily with grass herbicides**
- **Can cause crop damage - stress**

## **2. Esterified Seed Oils (ESO)**

- **Seed oils - corn, soybean, canola**
- **Methylated esters (MSO). Helps a herbicide penetrate the waxy plant surface.**
- **Better crop tolerance**

### 3. Fertilizers - (Nitrogen-surfactant Blends)

- **Improves herbicide uptake with hard-to-kill weeds**
- **Neutralizes or gives hard water mineral ions something to bind to instead of the herbicide.**
- **Ammonium sulfate**
  - **promote the uptake of weak acid herbicides such as 2,4-D, Pursuit (imazethapyr), Poast (sethoxydim)**  
**Used primarily with broadleaf herbicides.**

## 4. Utility

- **Acidifiers -neutralize alkaline solutions & lower pH.**
- **Buffering agents - stabilize the pH of spray solutions.**
- **Anti-foaming agents**
- **Compatibility agents**
- **Drift control agents**
- **Emulsification aids**
- **Suspension aids - added to a suspension in order to keep pesticide particles dispersed or to resuspend particles.**



**And you think your day was tough!!**