

Pesticides require careful use

Continued From 5C

* the rate of application and

* special instructions
Pesticide storage. The label will tell you how to store the product. The storage place should keep the pesticides dry, cool and out of direct sunlight. The storage place should have fire resistant construction, including a cement floor, an exhaust fan for ventilation, good lighting, and a lock on the door. All pesticides should be stored in their original labeled containers, away from food, feed, seed, and animals. And, always store pesticides in a secure location, so that they don't find their way into small hands and mouths.

Mixing pesticides is the time you are at the highest risk, after all, you are handling the material in a concen-

trated form. Before handling a pesticide, put on the correct protective clothing and equipment. Each time you mix a pesticide read the directions for mixing. If you splash or spill a pesticide while mixing stop right away, remove contaminated clothing, and wash thoroughly with detergent and water. Speed is very important to minimize your contact with the pesticide. Cat litter or other absorbent material is good to soak up the spilled material (be sure to dispose of this as a hazardous waste).

Pesticide application requires applying the proper amount to the area sprayed. This is achieved by calibrating your sprayer ahead of time using water. Drift of the pesticide to a non-target area should be avoided by

using low pressure and spraying when the air is calm.

Safe re-entry time is the time that must pass between applying the pesticide and when you can safely re-enter the area without protective clothing. Another period that must be observed is the pre-harvest interval which is the time that must pass between applying the pesticide and harvesting the crop.

Pesticide safety should be important to everyone. The tips and suggestions listed here are included on all pesticide labels along with many others such as what to do in the case of a spill. The label is the single most important source for information on proper pesticide handling. And remember that just because a pesticide

may be organic doesn't mean that it won't harm you!

The lesson to be learned here is to always read and follow label directions in order to achieve pest control in a safe manner.

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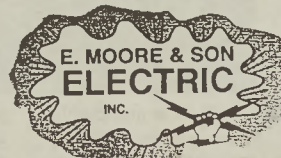
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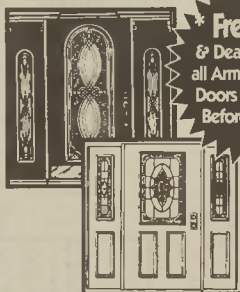


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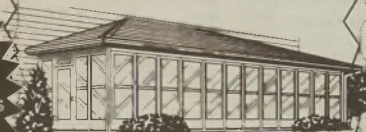
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