

PESTICIDE REPORTS

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources • Oklahoma State University
<http://pested.okstate.edu>



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MARCH PRACTICAL CLASSES

March brings the first month that all three practical classes take place for categories 7A, 7B, and 7C in Stillwater

Please remember to enroll in a practical class to finish certification you must have passed both the core exam and category exams at PSI. This class is the final step to complete certification and a final exam will be required at the end of each practical class.

Dates for each class are 7A General Pest March 10, 7B Structural March 11-12, and 7C Fumigation March 25. All practical classes are at the Pinkston Education Facility in Stillwater. [Google Maps OSU Pinkston Education Center](#)

For more information, please go to the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) website at <http://pested.okstate.edu/html/practical.htm>. Future 2026 workshop dates are on the website as well. (OSU PSEP)

SCOTUS TO HEAR ROUNDUP LIABILITY CASE

The U.S. Supreme Court decided Friday it will hear a Bayer Roundup case that could bring product-liability lawsuits to a close on the glyphosate-based weed killer.

Bayer argued the Supreme Court should hear *Monsanto Company v John L. Durnell* to resolve a split among lower courts on whether federal labeling laws preempt state labeling laws, while attorneys for the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma patient Durnell contended there was not a lower-court split.

Last summer the Missouri Court of Appeals joined the U.S. Court of Appeal for the Ninth and 11th circuits and state appellate courts in California and Oregon in holding that federal law does not preempt state laws. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled the opposite in another case, according to Bayer's filing.

Bayer touted the news as an important decision for U.S. agriculture.

"The Supreme Court decision to take the case is good news for U.S. farmers, who need regulatory clarity," Bayer CEO Bill Anderson said in a statement.

"It's also an important step in our multi-pronged strategy to significantly contain this litigation. It is time for the U.S. legal system to establish that companies should not be punished under state laws for complying with federal warning label requirements."

In a brief filed with the Supreme Court, the U.S. Solicitor General agreed with the company that the court should hear the case to resolve the circuit split.

"EPA has repeatedly determined that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic in humans, and the agency has repeatedly approved Roundup labels that did not contain cancer warnings," the solicitor general said in the brief.

"This court's intervention is warranted to give FIFRA's preemption provision its proper force."

Lori Ann Burd, environmental health director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said it was a "sad day in America" when the Supreme Court decides to consider

"depriving thousands of Roundup users suffering from cancer" of their day in court.

"Bayer is seeking the court's intervention because juries armed with compelling scientific studies linking Roundup to cancer have awarded billions to cancer victims," Burd said.

"Bayer keeps losing on the facts about its own product so now it's asking the court to prevent juries from ever again hearing those facts."

Durnell's attorneys argued in briefs to the Supreme Court that the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, or FIFRA, required Bayer to seek approval for a modified Roundup label that included a cancer warning.

Durnell's brief said the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit's decision in *Schaffner v Monsanto Corp.* - - the only case Bayer cites as creating a split -- declined to address the key preemption question in Durnell's case.

Bayer has argued the Third Circuit was correct when it unanimously held in *Schaffner* that FIFRA expressly preempts a claim like Durnell's that would require a warning label that is different from one mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Roundup lawsuits are based on alleged failure-to-warn claims by individual plaintiffs that say glyphosate in Roundup caused their cancer.

Bayer's petition filed on April 4, 2025, was in response to the verdict in *Durnell v Monsanto*. In the case the Missouri Court of Appeals upheld a \$1.25 million verdict based solely on a state-law failure-to-warn claim.

The *Schaffner* case addressed just one option for updating product labeling (notification without approval) but did not address the second option of applying for amended registration -- which requires EPA approval.

Attorneys for Durnell argue that unlike the plaintiff in *Schaffner*, he has consistently maintained that FIFRA requires Bayer to seek EPA approval for a modified Roundup label with cancer warnings.

Schaffner's reasoning rested on the assumption that Bayer had no option to update Roundup's labeling.

Durnell's brief points out this assumption is false -- as evidenced by Bayer updating Roundup's labeling 44

times and proposing to add cancer information in a settlement of multidistrict litigation.

(Progressive Farmer, January 16, 2026)

<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2026/01/16/supreme-court-hear-bayer-roundup-end>

THE SECRET TO SPRAY PERFORMANCE LIES IN YOUR WATER

Hard water and unbalanced pH levels can significantly reduce the effectiveness of pesticides, costing farmers both yield and dollars. A simple water test could be the key to maximizing pesticide performance and saving money next growing season.

“And every penny counts right now, especially when production costs are higher than the price you’re receiving for your crops,” said Heidi Reed, Extension educator for Penn State.

Hard water and unbalanced pH are two of the biggest factors that affect water quality and, in turn, the effectiveness of sprays you might be using.

“Hard water ... is a significant issue for pesticide performance,” Reed said. “Weak acid pesticides [2,4-D, glyphosate and dicamba], in particular, are less effective in hard water, especially when the pH is high.”

Hard water is caused by high mineral content — mainly dissolved calcium and magnesium — that occurs due to water percolating through deposits of limestone, chalk or gypsum. Water hardness is the measurement of the grains of calcium and magnesium per gallon of water, usually in parts per million.

The U.S. Geological Survey classifies “soft” or “slightly hard water” as between 0 and 60 ppm, “moderately hard” between 60 and 120 ppm, and “hard” as anything over 120 ppm.

Reed said thousands of water samples from southeastern Pennsylvania peg the average water hardness between 60 and 120 ppm.

Why it matters

Dissolved minerals like calcium, magnesium and iron can bind with pesticide molecules to reduce their effectiveness, Reed said.

“If your water is hard, you must use a water conditioner to improve pesticide performance,” she said.

“Unfortunately, pesticide labels often use vague language like ‘may increase performance’ instead of clearly stating that a water conditioner is necessary. Be mindful of these weasel words and always follow label recommendations.”

What is pH?

The pH is a measurement of how acidic or alkaline a solution is. The lower the pH, the more acidic; the higher the pH, the more alkaline. Most pesticides, Reed said, perform best in slightly acidic water, with a pH between 4 and 7. A high pH can cause pesticides to degrade quickly, reducing their effectiveness.

“For example, weak acid pesticides like glyphosate break down faster in basic water,” she said.

And small changes in pH can represent significant differences in acidity. A pH of 6, for example, is 10 times more acidic than a pH of 7, while a pH of 5 is 100 times more acidic than a pH of 7.

“This is why pH adjustments are critical for effective pesticide application,” Reed said. “Pesticide labels often provide guidance on pH and water quality. For example, the label for Harmony Extra states, ‘Do not use spray water with a pH below 5 or above 9, as rapid degradation can occur.’ This highlights the importance of knowing your water’s pH and using amendments like ammonium sulfate [AMS] to optimize it.”

TAKE TIME TO CHECK: Simple test strips are available to check both pH and hardness of water used for spraying. Commercial products are available to adjust water quality when necessary.

Evaluate your water source

While hardness and pH are big factors for groundwater, if you're using surface water, you should be mindful of debris from algae, leaves and sticks that can clog spray tips and equipment.

Water turbidity should also be checked as soil particles and organic matter that float in water can settle in tanks without proper agitation, reducing the effectiveness of active ingredients like glyphosate. They can also clog nozzles and screens.

A simple at-home test can be used to see if your water is too turbid. Fill a 5-gallon bucket of water and drop a quarter in it. If you can't see the quarter, the water is probably too turbid.

Practical tips

Start with a water test.

"Start with a professional lab test to establish a baseline, and then use at-home kits for ongoing monitoring," Reed said.

Along with this, always follow the proper mixing order for pesticides and amendments. "Don't let a tank sit idle for extended periods, as this can reduce spray effectiveness," she said.

If your water is hard, always add AMS or another conditioner to improve pesticide performance. Mississippi State University suggests adding AMS at a rate of 8.5 to 17 pounds per 100 gallons of water to moderately hard water.

And if your water is too hard to amend, explore other water sources for the spray mix. Also, read the label.

"The pesticide label is the law," Reed said. "It provides detailed instructions for optimizing performance under specific water conditions. Look at the labels and assume that if it advises to use something like AMS to just use it." (Farm Progress, January 13, 2026)

<https://www.farmprogress.com/crop-protection/the-secret-to-spray-performance-lies-in-your-water>

FLORIDA SHUTS DOWN ILLEGAL DOOR-TO-DOOR PEST CONTROL OPERATION

Florida agriculture officials have shut down an illegal door-to-door pest control sales operation that targeted hundreds of residents across the state, imposing a \$36,000 fine and barring the companies involved from future pest control activity in Florida.

Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson said the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services took enforcement action against Mira Home LLC and Grit Marketing LLC after investigators found the companies illegally solicited more than 600 pest control contracts.

Under the settlement, Mira Home, a licensed pest control company, agreed to pay a \$36,000 fine and comply with state pest control laws. Grit Marketing, which provided door-to-door sales workers, is permanently banned from engaging in any pest control sales or related activities in Florida.

Florida law prohibits pest control companies from using independent contractors to perform or solicit pest control services. Individuals who sell or perform pest control work must also carry a valid Pest Control Identification Card issued by the state to ensure proper training and oversight.

According to administrative complaints filed by the department, more than 30 Grit Marketing employees conducted unlicensed pest control activities in Florida. Between March 3-11, 2025, those employees went door-to-door soliciting contracts on behalf of Mira Home.

Investigators also found that Mira Home obtained pest control identification cards for individuals who were not

its employees but independent contractors working through Grit Marketing, a violation of state law.

“One of my top responsibilities as Florida’s commissioner of agriculture is protecting Florida’s consumers,” Simpson said in a statement. “That includes cracking down on illegal door-to-door sales operations and those operating outside the law.”

As part of broader consumer protection efforts, Simpson has proposed legislation in the 2026 Florida Farm Bill that would allow residents to post official “No Commercial Solicitation” signs at their homes and establish criminal penalties for those who ignore them. (PCT Online, January 20, 2026)

<https://www.pctonline.com/news/florida-shuts-down-illegal-door-to-door-pest-control-sales-operation/>

THIRD CALIFORNIA CITY BANS SALE AND USE OF STICKY TRAPS: PMPS REACT

Culver City has become the third city in California, after West Hollywood and Ojai, to ban the sale and use of glue traps. The city passed an ordinance that officials say is aimed at preventing animal suffering and reducing public health risks associated with trapped animals.

The ordinance, which went into effect Nov. 26, defines glue traps, also known as glue boards or sticky boards, as devices coated with non-drying adhesive that immobilize animals until they die. In addition to animal suffering, the city cited concerns that trapped rodents may continue to produce urine and feces, potentially spreading pathogens, and noted that non-target animals such as birds or lizards can be caught unintentionally.

Pest management professionals like Greg Bausch, vice president of Gardena, Calif.-based American City Pest & Termite, said the ban has had unintended consequences

because the ordinance defines animals as "any vertebrate animal, such as birds, rodents, reptiles, and insects."

Bausch and others argue that sticky traps are a foundational tool in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), are widely used for detection and monitoring rather than killing, and they help professionals determine whether and where treatments are needed.

“We’re typically only on-site for a short period of time, maybe a minute in an apartment or a few minutes in a commercial building,” he said. “Those monitors provide critical information about what’s happening and where activity is trending. Without them, inspections will take longer, and it will be harder to identify where infestations are and how severe they are.”

Bausch also is concerned that PMPs may end up relying more on pesticides, such as flushing agents, just to identify pest activity. “That means applying pesticides instead of using monitors, which I don’t think is what the city intended. But that could be the unintended consequence,” he said.

Josh Shoemaker, an urban and public health entomologist, said two pests highlight public health concerns related to this ban: German cockroaches and flies. German cockroaches are a well-documented trigger for asthma, especially in children, and are linked to increased emergency room visits. Sticky traps allow for early detection, mapping of infestations and confirmation that control efforts are working.

Shoemaker cited research showing that assessment-based cockroach management programs rely heavily on sticky traps to reduce allergen levels indoors. As mechanical vectors of foodborne pathogens, flies are closely monitored in food service, healthcare and commercial facilities. Many fly light traps use adhesive boards to capture insects without pesticides. Removing these tools, Shoemaker said, may push facilities toward greater use of aerosol sprays and residual insecticides, which is contrary to California DPR’s stated Sustainable Pest Management goals.

Megan Striegel, senior director of public policy, National Pest Management Association (NPMA), said NPMA has seen similar proposals at the state and local level. She said that what often gets overlooked is the

broader scope of how adhesive traps are used in the pest control industry. “Generally, these efforts come from well-intentioned individuals who don’t fully understand how these products are actually used by professionals,” she said.

In addition to providing lawmakers in Culver City, West Hollywood and Ojai with one-page fact sheets explaining the pest control industry’s usage of sticky traps, NPMA has been working with the California Pest Management Association (CPMA) to send formal letters and continue the dialogue. “We want to remain engaged and provide context and education, even after the fact,” she said.

With animal welfare organizations advocating for similar measures elsewhere, pest management professionals throughout the country are concerned these bans could spread beyond California.

(PCT Online, January 12, 2026)

<https://www.farmprogress.com/crop-protection/oklahoma-dirty-dozen-list-identifies-invasive-plant-species>

CEU MEETINGS

Please note that some of these meetings are virtual using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Please contact the meeting host directly if you have any questions.

Date: February 1-28, 2026

Title: Nutrien Ag Solutions Adjuvant Training

Location: Contact for Location(s)

Contact: Brandon Miller (580) 977-9990

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	1a
2	Private

Date: February 17, 2026

Title: 2026 Pecan Pest Management Workshop

Location: Gordon Cooper Tech. Center, Shawnee, OK

Contact: Becky Caroll (405)-744-6139

<https://extension.okstate.edu/announcements/oklahoma-pecan-management/2026/pecan-pest-management-workshop.html>

CEU's:	Category(s):
TBD	Private
TBD	1A
TBD	10

Date: March 2, 2026

Title: ENSYSTEX - 2025 CEU Workshop

Location: Holiday Inn Express Durant OK

Contact: Don Stetler (281)-217- 2965

<https://ensystemex.com/#95d40a97-d688-4731-9d1a-1e00ab8de51e>

CEU's:	Category(s):
3	3A
1	7A
3	7B

Date: March 3, 2026

Title: South-Central Pasture Pesticide Conference
Location: Pontotoc County Agriplex, Ada OK
Contact: Erin Hubbard (580)-332-2153
https://ag-events.okstate.edu/event/south-central-pasture-pesticide-conference-4052?utm_campaign=widget&utm_medium=widget&utm_source=Oklahoma+State+University+-+Agriculture

CEU's:	Category(s):
TBD	Private
TBD	1A
TBD	3A
TBD	6
TBD	10

Date: March 4, 2026

Title: OKVMA Spring 2026 Conference
Location: Champion Convention Center Oklahoma City
Contact: Kirsten Riggs (918)-314-9032
<https://okvma.com/conferences/>

CEU's:	Category(s):
TBD	3A
TBD	5
TBD	6
TBD	10

Date: March 5, 2026

Title: Vesperis 2026 Annual CEU Workshop
Location: Contact for Location
Contact: Erin Monteagudo (512)-721-3945

CEU's:	Category(s):
1	3A
1	7A
2	7B
3	10

Date: March 26, 2026

Title: BWI Pest & Turf Seminar
Location: Edmond Conference Center
Contact: BWI OKC Office (405)-772-1762

CEU's:	Category(s):
5	3A
3	7A
2	7B

ODAFF APPROVED ONLINE CEU COURSE LINKS

Online Pest Control Courses
<https://www.onlinepestcontrolcourses.com/>

PestED.com
<https://www.pested.com/>

Certified Training Institute
<https://www.certifiedtraininginstitute.com/>

WSU URBAN IPM AND PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
<https://pep.wsu.edu/rct/recertonline/>

CEU University
<http://www.ceuschool.org/>

Technical Learning College
<http://www.abctlc.com/>

All Star Pro Training
www.allstarce.com

Wood Destroying Organism Inspection Course
www.nachi.org/wdocourse.htm

CTN Educational Services Inc
<https://ctnedu.com/>

Vesperis
<http://www.pestweb.com/>

AG CEU Online
<https://agceuonline.com/courses/state/37>

Target Specialty Products Online Training
<https://www.target-specialty.com/training/online-training>

American Pest CEUs <https://americanpestceus.com/>

Pestschool.com <https://pestschool.com/>

For more information and an updated list of CEU meetings, click on this link:
<http://www.kellysolutions.com/OK/applicators/courses/searchCourseTitle.asp>

ODAFF TEST INFORMATION

Testing will be done at testing centers in multiple locations around the state by PSI Services LLC.

Reservation must be made in advance at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/okpest> or call **855-579-4643**

PSI locations.

Oklahoma City 3800 N Classen Blvd, Ste C-20, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Tulsa 2840 E. 51st Street, Brittany Square Office Park, Suite 215, Tulsa, OK 74105

McAlester 21 East Carl Albert Parkway (US Hwy 270), McAlester, Oklahoma 74501

Woodward 1915 Oklahoma Ave, Suite 3, Woodward, OK 73801

Lawton Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 West Lee Blvd Building 300- RM 308, Lawton, OK 73505

Enid Autry Technology Center, 1201 W. Willow Rd, Room 402, Enid, OK 73703

Ponca City Pioneer Technology Center, 2101 N Ash, Ponca City, OK 74601

South Penn - Moore Norman Technology Center
13301 S. Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City OK

Weatherford-Southwestern Oklahoma State University 1001 N 7th St. Weatherford OK

Durant-Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
1802 Chukka Hina Drive, Durant OK

If you have questions on pesticide certification. Please email or call:
Kevin Shelton 405-744-1060 kevin.shelton@okstate.edu

Charles Luper
405-744-5808 charles.luper@okstate.edu

**Pesticide Safety
Education Program**