Manufacturers spend many years and hundreds of millions of dollars to discover, research, develop and test pesticides, and create the label. However, pesticide labels often go unread or ignored. The label that accompanies the product you are using supersedes any other documentation or information about the product you may have been given by anyone else. Always read and follow label directions. The following is a discussion of the "who," "what," "when," "where," "why," and "how," of pesticide labels. This, and other important information, is listed on every pesticide label.

**WHO?**

"Who" can use a pesticide? Pesticides are either restricted-use or general-use. If a pesticide is restricted-use, it will be very clearly indicated as such, often at the top of the first page of the label, and it can only be used by licensed applicators. Other pesticides, not labeled restricted, can usually be used by the general public. Some general-use pesticides also have additional restrictions imposed on them in certain geographic areas. For instance, a state department of agriculture may restrict when and by whom 2,4-D and other auxins may be used in certain counties. Pesticides that are particularly likely to have off-target movement or to cause harm to humans, water or pollinators may be restricted.

**WHAT?**

"What" ingredients the pesticide contains is listed under “Active Ingredients,” usually on the first page of the label. Many active ingredients are sold under multiple trade names. Active ingredients can come in more