

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

DuPont™ Escort® XP

herbicide

Herbicides, people and the environment



Q. What should you know about the safety of herbicides?

A. Herbicides are among the most rigorously tested products. They rival human drugs for the extent of safety testing before they are approved for use.

These tests are conducted to predict how they might affect human health and the environment.

If the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines the margin of safety for a product is not sufficient to protect human health or the environment, then the product cannot be registered, manufactured or used.

Q. What is the role of herbicides?

A. Herbicides are used to reduce and manage problem weeds. Controlling tall weeds and brush along rights-of-way improves highway safety and reduces utility outages. Managing weed problems reduces the spread of noxious weeds to fields and gardens and helps lower pollen counts that promote allergies. Weed and brush control reduces the potential for wildfires and improves the success of reforestation efforts. Eliminating unsightly weeds improves the beauty of an area and the value of property.

DuPont™ Escort® XP and other herbicides play an effective role in managing weed problems. These products offer an alternative to removing weeds and brush with mowers, tillers, graders and chain saws. These mechanical tools also play a role in effective weed control, but they often cost more and expose workers to serious injury. Mechanical weed removal also can increase erosion, disrupt wildlife and scar the natural beauty of an area. Yet some weed problems can only be managed with a combined effort of mechanical removal and carefully prescribed herbicide use.

Q. What is Escort® XP?

A. DuPont™ Escort® XP is a herbicide used to control weeds and brush in industrial areas, rights-of-way, forested areas, pastures and rangelands. It has been used effectively since first introduced in 1986.

Unlike many other products that require pounds or gallons per acre, only a few ounces of Escort® XP per acre are used to manage weed problems. The effectiveness of Escort® XP in controlling weeds does not mean it is highly toxic to humans or animals. Escort® XP controls weeds by blocking an enzyme plants use to grow cells. This plant enzyme is not present in humans, other mammals, birds, aquatic life or insects.

Q. What are the effects of Escort® XP on humans?

A. Many tests conducted over many years were used to determine the EPA-approved uses of Escort® XP and its relative safety to humans. Some tests predict what might happen if someone should accidentally come in contact with the product in a concentrated form. Other tests indicate what might result if people come in contact with the product many times over an extended period of time. There also are tests to determine the possibility of causing infertility, birth defects, genetic damage or mutations.

Study results to date demonstrate that Escort® XP does not cause cancer, birth defects, sterility, genetic mutations or genetic damage in humans.

Q. What are the effects of Escort® XP on wildlife and the environment?

A. Numerous studies have been conducted to determine how long Escort® XP remains in the environment and its toxicity to many species of mammals, birds, fish and insects. Results to date have confirmed Escort® XP is very low in toxicity to wildlife when used in accordance with the label. The potential for adverse effects on wildlife following incidental exposure is minimal.

In fact, the use of Escort® XP can benefit wildlife. For example, Escort® XP is used in certain applications to control non-native weed problems that crowd out native plant species animals prefer to eat. Controlling weeds and brush along highways also reduces the risk of animals browsing near roads and causing automobile collisions.

Q. Is there any danger from eating animals that have eaten foliage treated with Escort® XP?

A. There is very little likelihood that Escort® XP residues could be found in animal tissues potentially consumed by humans. Normally, animals would come into contact with very little or no Escort® XP. Animals generally range over areas much larger than areas treated with Escort® XP. Escort® XP usually is applied only once per year and less in rights-of-way. In reforestation areas, Escort® XP is used less than three times over a 20- or 30-year period. Animals naturally eliminate Escort® XP. Studies have shown that Escort® XP does not accumulate in animal tissues or the environment.

Q. Is it safe to drink water from a well in areas treated with Escort® XP?

A. It is unlikely that DuPont™ Escort® XP would be found in well water from nearby treated areas because it is used in very small amounts and generally degrades rapidly in the environment. In the unlikely event very small amounts of Escort® XP are found in well water, the amounts would be well below the EPA's level of concern.

Q. Are special precautions necessary when walking through an area where Escort® XP has been applied?

A. There is no special precaution required when simply walking through an area after Escort® XP has been applied and sprays have dried.

Agricultural workers must follow EPA-mandated requirements regarding Restricted Entry Intervals and Personal Protective Equipment listed on all product labels.

Q. What is the toxicity to fish if they are accidentally exposed to Escort® XP?

A. Tests were conducted on many aquatic species, including fresh cold-water fish, fresh warm-water fish and

freshwater invertebrates. Results indicated that Escort® XP was not toxic to these species at the highest concentrations achievable.

Q. Do high levels of Escort® XP build up in the soil?

A. Escort® XP generally degrades readily in the soil. The actual rate of degradation will depend on environmental conditions. Degradation is slower where temperature and moisture are lower and the soil pH is higher.

Q. How will Escort® XP affect desirable plants (crops, ornamental vegetation etc.)?

A. DuPont™ Escort® XP is used to control unwanted vegetation. As such, if it is not used according to the label, it can negatively affect desirable vegetation. Escort® XP will not harm desirable plants as long as the label is carefully followed.

Q. Where can I get more information about Escort® XP and other DuPont herbicides?

A. We encourage the public to become more knowledgeable about the proper use of Escort® XP herbicide. You may obtain more Escort® XP product information (as well as other vegetation management and forestry herbicide information) by visiting our Vegetation Management Web page at vm.dupont.com.

Escort® XP is not approved for use on crops or near desirable ornamental plants. Appropriate precautions should be taken in areas where crops or desirable ornamental plants are growing or will be grown. Spray drift and other off-target movement should be prevented.

This reference guide is not intended as a substitute for the product label for the product(s) referenced herein. Product labels for the above product(s) contain important precautions, directions for use and product warranty and liability limitations that must be read before using the product. Applicators must be in possession of the product label(s) at the time of application. Always read and follow all label directions and precautions for use when using any pesticide alone or in tank mix combinations.

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