



Diuron

Updated: November 2018

CAS number 330-54-1

Diuron is a white odorless, crystalline solid. It is available commercially as an 80 percent wettable powder or a 35 percent aqueous suspension. It is slightly soluble in water and hydrocarbons; soluble in acetone.

Diuron hydrolyzes in fairly strong acids [CDC].

Usage and exposure

Diuron is a broad-spectrum residual herbicide and algaecide used in agriculture for pre-emergent and post-emergent control of broadleaved and grass weeds. It is also used to control weeds and algae in and around water bodies and is a component of marine antifouling paints [APVMA].

It is used to control weeds and mosses on non-crop areas and among many agricultural crops such as fruit, cotton, sugar cane and legumes. Diuron works by inhibiting photosynthesis [PMEP].

Routs of exposure

Exposure to diuron can occur through inhalation, ingestion, and eye or skin contact [CDC].

Target organ:

Upper respiratory tract, eyes, skin.

Health hazards

No information on the toxic effects of occupational exposure to diuron is available. Based on effects seen in animals, acute exposure to diuron would be expected to cause mild skin irritation and headaches, drowsiness, and incoordination [CDC].

References:

- APVMA. Australian Government. Diuron Chemical Review.
<https://apvma.gov.au/node/12511>
- CDC. Diuron. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/81-123/pdfs/0247.pdf?id=10.26616/NIOSH PUB81123>
- PMEP. Pesticide Information Profile.
<http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet/dienochlor-glyphosate/diuron-ext.html>