

LANDSPREADING

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has been involved with landspreading agrichemicals (pesticides and fertilizers) since 1985. Our staff will work with you to properly landspread contaminated soil.

Before you landspread any soil contaminated with agrichemicals:

- collect and analyze soil samples
- find a landspreading site
- receive written authorization from DATCP to landspread the soil

This brochure will answer some commonly asked questions about landspreading soil contaminated with pesticides and fertilizers.

Why landspread soil contaminated with agrichemicals?

Landspreading is the most common, and generally the least expensive, method of managing soil contaminated with pesticides or fertilizers. Many pesticide and fertilizer spills occur each year as a result of transportation accidents, equipment failure, or other causes. One method to clean up these spills and reduce the effect on the environment is to excavate the contaminated soil and spread it on agricultural land.

Will the landspread soil cause more contamination?

The pesticides and fertilizers in the contaminated soil are broken down by sunlight, oxygen and microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. The crops grown in the landspread soil also use the fertilizers and pesticides contained in the soil, just as they would any other fertilizer or pesticide application.

How are landspreading application rates calculated?

Laboratory tests on soil samples determine the concentration and total quantity of fertilizer and pesticide levels in the excavated soil. DATCP will use the soil test results, the pesticide label, the University of Wisconsin-Extension recommendations, and prior experience to approve a landspreading rate. A safety factor built into the calculations reduces the risk of over-application.

In addition, farmers receiving the soil must agree to credit or account for the ingredients in the landspread soil when making other nutrient and pesticide applications.

Who will landspread the soil?

A certified pesticide applicator must either supervise or do the landspreading of pesticide contaminated soil. Fertilizer contaminated soil can be landspread by anyone.

Where is the soil landspread?

The soil is applied to agricultural fields and crops where the pesticides and fertilizers would normally be applied. We review all proposed landspreading application sites. We may reject a proposed application site if the site's physical characteristics (such as soil type, drainage class, depth to groundwater) suggest that the site is unsuitable. DATCP has minimum setback requirements around environmentally sensitive areas including sinkholes, wells, streams, and ponds. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey books, Farm Service Agency maps, and topographic maps may be used to support a proposed application site.

How is the soil landspread?

Landspreading is usually done with a manure spreader or a commercial spreader. Application rates are typically low enough that dump trucks or bulldozers cannot spread the soil thin enough.

When can the soil be landspread?

You can landspread beginning in the spring when the frost is out of the ground, until the fall before there are two inches of frost in the ground. The time of the application will influence the maximum application rate that DATCP will approve.

Who should I contact?

Please contact DATCP before you anticipate landspreading soil so we can assist you with developing the proper application rates. Also, contact our department two days prior to beginning landspreading so we can observe the landspreading and verify that everything goes as planned.

You should also contact local units of government prior to the landspreading to ensure that you are in compliance with local regulations.

Does the soil have to be incorporated after it is spread?

Yes. We normally require that the landspread soils be incorporated shortly after they are applied. Exceptions to this requirement are for those fields where tilling is inconsistent with the farm management plan (no-till fields).

Can I be reimbursed for incorporating contaminated soils?

Yes. The ACCP will reimburse for tillage up to the average district rates published in the current version of the "Wisconsin Custom Rate Guide." The ACCP may pay for up to two tillage passes in heavily compacted areas with prior approval.

Will the ACCP pay for land rental?

No. However, the ACCP will pay a land access fee of up to \$0.50 per cubic yard of contaminated soil spread onto a field.

This access fee is not available when the land is owned by the responsible person.

For more information

If you are interested in receiving the landspreading forms and instructions, or if you would like to learn more about landspreading, contact us:

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Trade, and Consumer Protection**
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(608) 224-4500

<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pest-fert/pesticides/accp/landspreading.jsp>



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Cleaning Up Agricultural Chemicals

for your information...



Landspreading Agrichemical Contaminated Soils