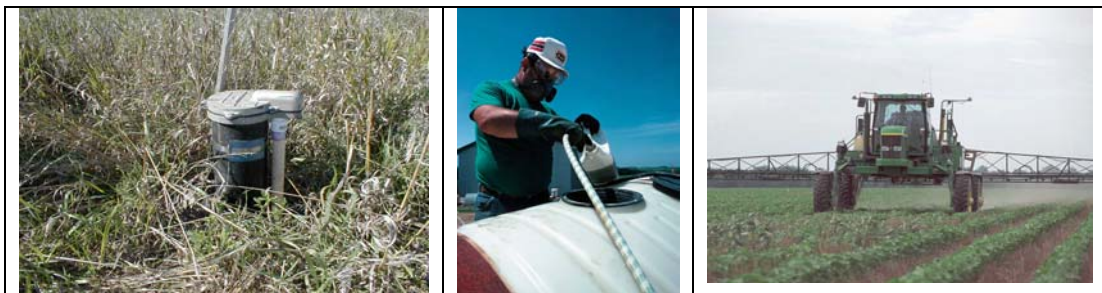


Protect Drinking Water Resources: Use & Application of Agricultural Chemicals



The City is taking steps to protect drinking water. Agricultural chemicals can have a significant impact on groundwater and drinking water resources when not properly managed. Agricultural chemicals (pesticides) can contaminate groundwater through how they are:

- 1) **USED:** Rate and timing of application
- 2) **HANDLED:** loading, mixing and preparing for application
- 3) **STORED:** location, container condition & method(s) of storage
- 4) **DISPOSAL:** Final disposal of product and container.

*The focus of this fact sheet is on steps you can take in the **Use and Application** of these chemicals to protect drinking water resources; AND yourself. The Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture (MDA) is responsible for implementing the MN Pesticide Law regulating agricultural chemicals and fertilizers.*

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR USE & APPLICATION OF AGRICULTURE CHEMICALS:

- READ & FOLLOW ALL LABEL INSTRUCTIONS! Review the “Environmental Restrictions” part of the label. Different products have different setback and use restrictions from water bodies & sensitive areas (sinkholes, terraces, etc.).
- Drinking water resources are vulnerable in sensitive areas with coarse textured (sandy) soils and high water table. Consult with a certified crop consultant on best management practices and restrictions. (See MDA Water Quality Fact sheet on Atrazine)
- To reduce run-off and leaching to groundwater, apply agriculture chemicals at the appropriate time of the year, crop and weed growth stages described on the label.
- Do not apply agricultural chemicals if inclement weather is forecast.
- Never apply an agricultural chemical less than 50’ from a well. (See State Well Code setback requirement for a hazardous substance) A greater distance is preferred whenever possible.
- Adopt practices that help reduce the use of agriculture chemicals such as: crop rotations to minimize pests, spot spraying, increase crop population & density to reduce infestations, etc.
- Follow irrigation & chemigation permit requirements for proper check valves, back flow prevention devices, chemical tank construction & setback requirements.
- Calibrate and maintain equipment to avoid over-application, leaks & spills.

REPORT ALL SPILLS TO THE STATE DUTY OFFICER: 1-800-422-0798

Additional management practices and regulatory information on the use and application of agricultural chemicals is located at: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/voluntarybmps.htm> or by contacting the MDA at (651) 201-6671.

For additional information on wellhead protection, please contact the city at: