Questions & Answers about Kromac® Herbicide

What is KROMAC®?

• KROMAC® is a herbicide for use on non-crop sites to control certain weeds. It is also registered for use in certain crops. It is manufactured by The Du Pont Company and distributed by Macspred Pty. Ltd.

Why has KROMAC® been chosen to control weeds here?

• Because it is an appropriate product to handle the problems. Before applying any herbicide, a vegetation manager carefully evaluates a site's weed species, soil type and proximity to cropland, and other desirable plants and environmental considerations. After that evaluation, a product is selected that controls unwanted vegetation and poses the least risk to desirable plants and other aspects of the local environment. In situations where KROMAC® is used, it would have been chosen because it is the most appropriate product for weed control at that site.

What government agency has approved KROMAC® for this use?

• Regulatory Authorities have approved KROMAC® for control of weeds on non-cropland. Registration was granted after years of testing confirmed this product to be beneficial for herbicidal uses without injury to people, wildlife or the environment.

How does KROMAC® work?

• KROMAC® inhibits photosynthesis, the process by which plants manufacture foods. After application, weeds become yellow due to lack of chlorophyll (green pigment). Plants become weakened, the leaves drop and the plant ultimately dies.

What are the benefits of using a herbicide to control weeds?

• The use of herbicides for the control of roadside vegetation results in better sight distance and enhanced visibility of signs, guardrails, vehicles and crossings, thus decreasing the likelihood of accidents occurring when motorists do not see a warning sign or obstruction. It helps prevent flooding by removing vegetation that might block roadside passageways, thus allowing for proper drainage of road surfaces. Controlling high-growing vegetation that can cast shade on roadways allows the sun to shine directly on the pavement so that it dries more quickly. In colder climates, controlling vegetation enhances ice and snow melt.

Controlling of vegetation also reduces the chances of animals being struck by vehicles, because when weeds are controlled near the road, animals are less likely to stray or stay there. Control of weeds reduces fire hazards. It is most effective when applied at early stages of growth so little weed debris remains. Herbicides can be used to selectively control certain weeds and encourage the growth of some plants to enhance the natural beauty of a landscape.

At industrial locations like plant sites, herbicides are able to control weeds around buildings, production units, along chain link fences and on railroad sidings where mowing is difficult, if not impossible, and must be repeated throughout the growing

season. This control also forms fire barriers and discourages inhabitation by rodents, insects and other undesirable pests. In addition, the site is more visually attractive.

Vegetation in contact with power lines presents fire and service interruption hazards. At power substations and along rights-of-way with power production lines, the use of herbicides is more effective than mechanical control because it controls weed roots to maintain weed-free surroundings. Mowing provides only temporary control. Also, in larger areas like utility rights-of-way, herbicides are more cost effective.

Vegetation control on railroad rights-of-way is important for traffic and worker safety and track maintenance. Weeds at crossings block sight lines and contribute to vehicular accidents. Vegetation interferes with maintenance operations and creates unsafe working conditions in yards and around switches. Plants in and around track ballasts impede water drainage and promote soil build-up, which weakens track support and shortens tie life.

KROMAC® is mixed with water before it is sprayed. How does this affect its safety to humans, birds, animals and the environment?

• When used according to the label, KROMAC® non-toxic to applicators, bystanders and wildlife.

Does KROMAC® pose any danger to humans?

• In our years of experience with KROMAC® here have been no significant health effects associated with its use. However, since any chemical may be harmful when misused, it is important that label directions are followed.

Can KROMAC® cause cancer, birth defects or other illnesses?

• There have been no long-term illnesses or significant health effects associated with the use of KROMAC®. However, excessive lifelong exposure of laboratory animals to KROMAC® active components produced tumours in one species but was negative in others. These laboratory tests greatly exceeded human exposures. Because of the excessive exposure and weak effects, KROMAC® is not considered to be a cancer hazard to humans. Our years of experience in the manufacture and use of this and related products have demonstrated their safety.

What effect will KROMAC® have on my children playing near a treated site?

• None; however, as with any chemical, we recommend keeping out of a treated area. This is to avoid any unnecessary chemical exposure.

What if someone inadvertently enters a site that has just been treated?

• It is unlikely that any harmful effects will result from contact with wet foliage. However, if the spray contacts the skin or eyes, the area should be flushed with water; then seek medical attention.

What effect will KROMAC® have on my pets walking through or eating grass from a treated site?

• None; however, again we recommend keeping your pets out of a treated area. If there is contact, follow the same washing procedures as prescribed above.

How much of the treated foliage would my pet, or wildlife have to eat before it would be harmed?

• KROMAC® is very low in toxicity to mammals, birds and insects. They are able to break down and eliminate the chemical's active ingredients rapidly. In fact an animal

would need to eat its own body weight or more in treated foliage to have an adverse effect. Therefore, animals are not likely to eat enough foliage to cause any harm.

Will KROMAC® have a harmful effect on nearby drinking water supplies?

• KROMAC® should not be used on any body of water. When used according to the label, KROMAC® will not adversely affect water supplies.

How toxic is KROMAC® to fish?

• KROMAC® is not intended for aquatic use. However, when used according to the label KROMAC® is non-hazardous to fish. Laboratory tests with the active ingredients demonstrated slight to moderate toxicity.

Does KROMAC® build up in the soil, other parts of the environment or the food chain?

• The active ingredients in KROMAC® degrade in the soil. Additionally, KROMAC® is diluted in water and used at low concentrations, which prevents significant exposure to animals. If a pasture or dam were inadvertently sprayed with KROMAC® animals and fish would naturally break down and excrete the product rapidly so it would have no adverse effect on the food chain. This process is similar to normal bodily functions for other ingested naturally occurring substances.

Where can I get more information about KROMAC® and other Macspred herbicides?

• We encourage the public to become more knowledgeable about the proper use of herbicides. You may obtain more information by contacting:

For further information and advice, contact Macspred Australia
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