

# Using Chemicals in Cornell Greenhouses

## What is required to be on the label?

- Owner's name and telephone number
- Original manufacturer's labels are sufficient. Otherwise, include:
  - Full name of chemical; not symbols, structures, or abbreviations
  - Health, flammability and reactivity ratings or information
  - Manufacturer's name, address and telephone number, if available
  - Special hazards, such as carcinogenic or water reactive
  - Target organs affected by exposure

For further information, or pre-printed labels, contact any greenhouse staff member, or the greenhouse manager.

Users of the CALS-Ithaca greenhouses can find greenhouse policy and other greenhouse related information at <http://greenhouses.cals.cornell.edu>



A summary of requirements for using and labeling chemicals in the Cornell greenhouses.

## Why are labels required?

OSHA mandates that all chemicals used in the workplace be properly labeled. Chemicals used in greenhouses or other non-laboratory areas are required to have more detailed label information than the same materials used in a laboratory setting, as non-lab workers cannot be assumed to have extensive chemical safety knowledge.

## What must greenhouse users do?

Contact the greenhouse supervisor or manager before bringing any chemicals into the greenhouse or associated non-laboratory areas such as growth chambers, headhouses, hallways and storage cabinets.

Work with the greenhouse supervisor or manager to determine where Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) and inventory records are to be kept.

Comply with requirements of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, as summarized in this brochure.

## Where can labels be found if the original is not available?

Many OSHA compliant labels can be downloaded from the EH&S web page at: <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu> (on the Forms & Documents page, select Chemicals, Labels: Index)

Greenhouse staff can provide labels for a limited number of the chemicals more commonly found in the greenhouses.

Legible handwritten labels are also acceptable.



## Materials covered:

All containers in the workplace must be properly labeled. This includes:

- pesticides,
- laboratory chemicals,
- fertilizers,
- growth regulators,
- rooting hormones,
- cleaning products,
- lubricants, etc.
- Water containers should be labeled “water” to avoid confusion with other solutions.
- “Empty” containers that contain residues must be labeled.

## Additional requirements for complying with the Hazard Communication Standard:

- MSDSs must be readily accessible to all employees in the event of an emergency.
- A current inventory of chemicals must be kept at the facility where they are used.