

**TEST YOURSELF
IN
CROP PROTECTION**

Asoka K. Basnayake

*(Research Officer, Agronomy Division,
Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Talawakele,
Sri Lanka)*

Today chemicals are used widely by the farmers to control pest damage to their crops. With agriculture being practised on an extensive scale the use of crop protective measures is inevitable. However, how many of us are aware of the hazards of using such chemicals?

The following self-test is designed with a view to helping you to test your knowledge on the use of chemicals in crop protection. Please answer the 20 questions given and add up the total to judge yourself.

- 1) You should store pesticides:
 - A. On the kitchen shelf, in a poultry shed, dairy or any other convenient place.
 - B. Closed tightly in their containers in a separate shed, room or cabinet under lock and key.
- 2) After buying cans or bottles of pesticides you must:
 - A. Transfer them into other storage containers for convenience.
 - B. Never transfer them into other containers but store them in their original containers.

- 3) Before using pesticides you must:
 - A. Read the label, familiarize yourself with directions and then handle it.
 - B. Go ahead and mix it without consulting the label as you are already familiar with the use of the product in your planting career.
- 4) Mixing pesticides should be done:
 - A. Inside the house or in a shed.
 - B. Only outside.
- 5) Children should be:
 - A. Taught to handle chemicals early in life.
 - B. Kept away when handling or applying pesticides.
- 6) To measure and mix pesticides you must use:
 - A. A household utensil such as a cup or a glass.
 - B. An accurate measuring container used only for this purpose.
- 7) When you mix a concentrated pesticide you should stir it with:
 - A. Your ungloved hand.
 - B. A stick while wearing gloves.

- 8) Spray tanks should be filled:
- A. Through a strainer and taking care not to spill the mixture.
 - B. Through a funnel.
- 9) While spraying pesticides one must wear:
- A. Protective clothing, rubber gloves and a mask.
 - B. Minimum of clothing to prevent damage to clothes.
- 10) Smoking while spraying chemicals:
- A. Should never be practised.
 - B. Could be soothing as it will keep away the offensive smells of pesticides.
- 11) If any chemical contaminates your skin while spraying:
- A. Wipe the liquid off and continue spraying and wash up later.
 - B. Stop work immediately and wash the contaminated skin area well.
- 12) While spraying if the spray nozzle becomes clogged:
- A. Clear it with a stick or wire.
 - B. Blow it clear with your mouth.

- 13) The best time of the day to spray is:
- A. Morning and evening.
 - B. Mid-day.
- 14) While spraying pesticides you must:
- A. Spray into the wind.
 - B. Away from the wind.
- 15) Unused spray solution should be:
- A. Further diluted and sprayed onto the treated field.
 - B. Disposed into ponds, lakes or streams.
- 16) After spraying workers should be encouraged to:
- A. Wash thoroughly with soap and water.
 - B. Rest and have a meal or drink before washing up.
- 17) Empty pesticide containers should be:
- A. Washed with soap and water before using or selling them
 - B. Crushed and destroyed before burying them deeply in the ground.
- 18) Ideal weather conditions for spraying pesticide is:
- A. Cool weather with no rain anticipated for at least 6 hours after spraying.
 - B. Cool weather with a slight drizzle.

- 19) If a worker feels sick after handling pesticides:
- A. He should be made to lie down and rest after taking a painkiller.
 - B. Sent for medical treatment immediately preferably along with the pesticide container or its label.
- 20) If someone accidentally swallows a pesticide you must:
- A. Make him vomit and send for the doctor.
 - B. Seek immediate medical attention.

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1) | A-0 | B-1 | 11) | A-0 | B-1 |
| 2) | A-1 | B-0 | 12) | A-1 | B-0 |
| 3) | A-1 | B-0 | 13) | A-1 | B-0 |
| 4) | A-0 | B-1 | 14) | A-0 | B-1 |
| 5) | A-0 | B-1 | 15) | A-1 | B-0 |
| 6) | A-0 | B-1 | 16) | A-1 | B-0 |
| 7) | A-0 | B-1 | 17) | A-0 | B-1 |
| 8) | A-1 | B-0 | 18) | A-1 | B-0 |
| 9) | A-1 | B-0 | 19) | A-0 | B-1 |
| 10) | A-1 | B-0 | 20) | A-0 | B-1 |

How have you fared? If you have scored

20 - You have an excellent knowledge of the protective measures while using crop protection products as well as a good knowledge of pest control. You are an asset to your organization.

16 - 19 - You have a fair knowledge of the hazards of using chemicals in crop protection. However, you should pay more attention to the protection of your labour force. With a little more hard work you can have an excellent knowledge of the subject.

15 and below - If your score is in this range you should not be in charge of using pesticides at all. Therefore, you must take immediate measures to update your knowledge. Special warning to this group - keep your score a secret from your boss.