Pesticide Basics

**Definition of pesticide**

A substance used to kill, repel, or control certain forms of plant or animal life that are pests. Pesticides include herbicides for destroying weeds and other unwanted vegetation, insecticides for controlling a wide variety of insects, fungicides used to prevent the growth of molds and mildew, disinfectants for preventing the spread of bacteria, and compounds used to control mice and rats.

**Well-Known Pesticides**

- **Insecticides:** manage insects and other arthropods
- **Herbicides:** manage weeds and other plants that grow where they are not wanted
- **Fungicides:** manage fungi (including blights, mildews, molds and rusts)
- **Rodenticides:** control mice and other rodents
- **Algicides**
- **Antimicrobials**
- **Biopesticides**
- **Desiccants**
- **Fumigants**
- **Miticides**
- **Antifoulants**
- **Attractants**
- **Biocides**
- **Disinfectants**
- **Insect growth regulators**
- **Molluscicides**
- **Ovicides**
- **Pheromones**
- **Plant Growth Regulators**
- **Plant Incorporated Protectants**
- **Swimming Pool Treatments**
- **Microbial Pesticides**
- **Nematicides**
- **Plant Defoliants**
- **Repellants**