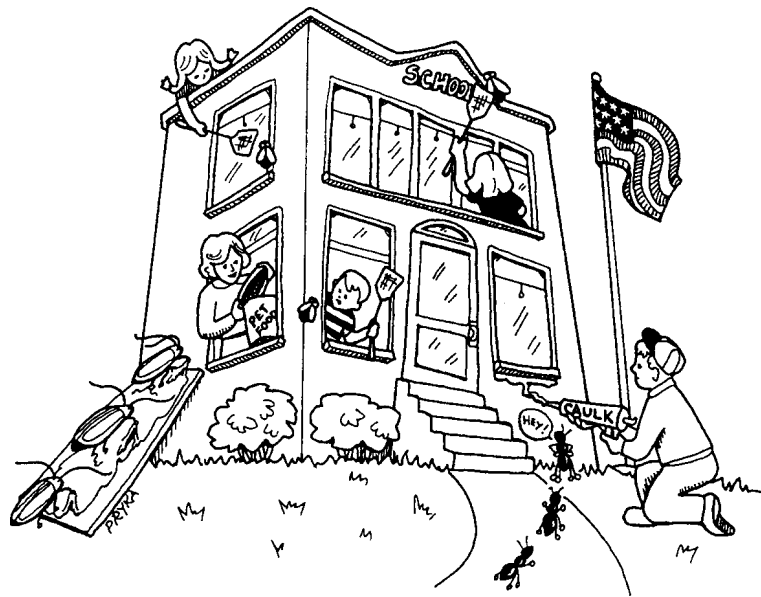


Learning About Pesticides at School:

Project Ideas

for High School or Middle School Classrooms
or Student Environmental Clubs



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Contents

Introduction: The Pesticide Problem

1. Mapping Pesticide Use at Your School*	1
2. Finding Alternative Pest Control Strategies for Your School*	6
3. Changing Your School's Pesticide Use Practices and Policies*	7
4. How Effective Are Pest Control Alternatives?	8
5. Truth in Advertising?: Pesticide Product Advertising Analysis	9
6. Household Pesticide Product Label Survey, Analysis and Alternatives	10
7. Pesticide Policy Debates	11
8. Using the Freedom of Information Act	12
9. Pesticide Incidents and Accidents	13
10. Multiple Chemical Sensitivity	14
11. Occupational Hazards: The Risks Posed to Farmworkers	15
12. Food Safety: Do School Lunches Make the Grade?	16
13. Testing School Cafeteria Food for Pesticide Residues	18
14. Testing Surfaces, Soil and Water for Pesticide Residues	19
15. On the Trail of a Pesticide in Your Community	20
16. Organic Farm Tour	21
Glossary of Pesticide-Related Terms	23

***Note for teachers or club leaders:** The first three activities can be combined into one comprehensive school pesticide use reduction project. The larger project is an ideal activity for interdisciplinary school classes or environmental club projects. It involves activities appropriate in traditional health, chemistry, biology, ecology, math, speech, civics and social studies classrooms. Better yet, it involves students in a “real-world” project that will make a difference in their own lives.

Introduction: The Pesticide Problem

Pesticides are used in many places in our communities. They are used in public parks and buildings, in restaurants and grocery stores, in hospitals and apartment buildings, along federal and state highways and county roads, and on most school grounds and buildings. They are also used on farms and fields, in forests, and sometimes even in lakes. They are used in people's homes and gardens. They may also be manufactured, transported, or disposed of in your community. Pesticides are poisons intended to kill certain unwanted pest species. This may include insects, weeds, fungus, or even rodents and other larger mammals. Pesticides often do more poisoning than they are supposed to, however. Most pesticides are not selective in their action, and may kill beneficial insects or plants along with the pests. Many of them are acutely toxic to humans, as well as to pests, and accidental exposures may have serious or fatal consequences. Others may cause long-term effects to humans or the environment.

The projects in this packet are designed to help you learn more about pesticide use in your school or community, and the hazards that such use may pose. They are also intended to help you get involved in changing pesticide use practices at your school and elsewhere in your community.

For more information about pesticide hazards and alternatives, and links to other pesticide research sites, visit NCAP's Web site at www.pesticide.org. For more information about pesticide use at schools, visit our schools program page at www.pesticide.org/schools01.html. Additional copies of this packet are also available on our Web site at: www.pesticide.org/LearningIdeas.html. Good luck with your research and your work to reduce pesticide use in your community!

