

Pesticide Label Updates

Endangered Species Protection Bulletins

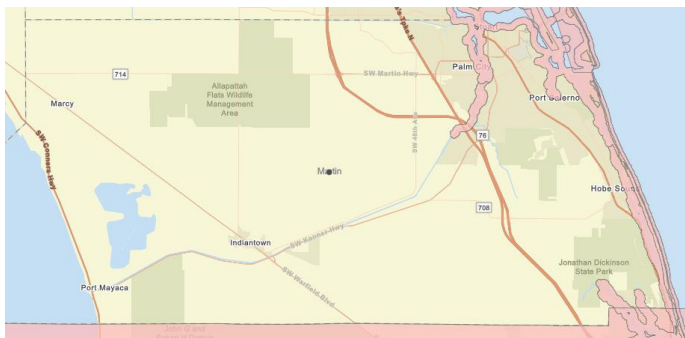
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What brought about the changes?

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ensure that the pesticides they register do not jeopardize the continued existence of federally threatened or endangered species or damage their critical habitats. With over 1,600 listed species and limited information about the ways they may be impacted by pesticides, the EPA examined how it could fulfill its ESA obligations.

What steps are required for applicators?

First, review the product label. The Directions for Use section of the label typically discusses endangered species protections. Labels are beginning to include the new protections, as more and more products are evaluated. If further ESA protections apply, the label will refer to an “Endangered Species Protection Bulletin”. Before using the product, applicators must check online to see if there is a Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA) in effect for the area where they will be applying the pesticide. The map below shows the current PULAs within Martin County, as of January 7, 2025. As more ESA reviews are conducted, additional PULAs may be established. Check online for updates.



What is a PULA?

Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULAs) define geographic areas wherein pesticide applications may affect federally-listed protected species. Pesticide use within the PULA must follow limitations to prevent harm to vulnerable listed species. The required limitations are specified in Endangered Species Protection Bulletins. The PULAs and bulletins are available in the EPA’s Bulletins Live! Two online tool.

How do I access the bulletins?

With Bulletins Live! Two, users can navigate to the intended pesticide application area in the online map. Next, specify the intended application month on the drop-down, and then enter the EPA Registration number of the product to be applied. The page will then allow you to view a Printable Bulletin. If there are PULAs for the month and location in which you’d like to apply the product, the bulletin will specify required protective measures. Examples include avoiding application when soil is saturated or storms are forecast, using 50% or lower application rates when tank mixing with other neurotoxic pesticides, etc. If no PULAs apply to the proposed application, the Bulletin will state that no limitations exist beyond the label instructions. The Bulletin must be checked online no earlier than 6 months before the date(s) the product will be applied.

Resources

<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins>

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/pesticideinformation/author/brettbultemeier/>