Aquathol® and Hydrothol® Aquatic Herbicides and Algicides

Aquatic plants play an important role in the ecology of our lakes and reservoirs. However, exotic invasive aquatic weeds such as Hydrilla, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curlyleaf Pondweed and Water Hyacinth, along with noxious algae, often pose a serious threat to the health and well-being of these water resources. Endothall, the active ingredient in Aquathol and Hydrothol can enhance the aquatic environment and protect our waters by controlling these weeds and algae.

The following illustrates how levels of Aquathol and Hydrothol found in water following an application for control of aquatic weeds and algae, relate to human health.

What about swimming after an application?

There is no swimming restriction on any of the Endothall labels. These products dissipate rapidly after use. They are poorly absorbed through the skin and small amounts of water that are injested while swimming are not considered toxic or harmful. An adult would have to continuously swim more than 500 hours (20 days) to absorb and injest more than enough Endothall to exceed the No Observable Effect Level (NOEL*). That's enough time to swim 10 laps across Lake Michigan.

Can I eat the fish from the treated lake?

Eating fish following an Endothall treatment is not prohibited. Endothall does not concentrate in fish. A person would have to eat over 600 lbs. of fish from water treated with Aquathol or Hydrothol every day for a lifetime to exceed the NOEL.

What about livestock that drink treated water?

Like fish, Endothall is not concentrated in the meat and is excreted rapidly. Beef cattle drinking from a pond treated with Aquathol or Hydrothol would ingest a small quantity of Endothall. A person would have to eat almost 1300 lbs. of meat from animals drinking only treated water to exceed the NOEL.

What if my dog or cat drinks the treated water?

This is considered incidental exposure. In addition Endothall is not toxic to dogs or cats at rates used to treat aquatic weeds and algae.

Is Endothall toxic to waterfowl or other wildlife?

Endothall formulations for aquatic uses are not toxic to waterfowl and wildlife when applied at labeled rates. (The maximum rate of application is 5 ppm for any of the Endothall products: the 8-day LC50 for bobwhite quail and mallard ducklings is >5,000 ppm and the 21-day LD50 for mallard ducks is 344 ppm.)

How long does Endothall last in the water following a treatment?

The time that Endothall remains in the water varies with the size and type of application made, but it generally dissipates and degrades within a few days. The half-life (time in which 1/2 of the product is degraded) is about 3-7 days in most situations. Endothall is degraded by microbes into Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen and Organic Acids normally found in the environment.

What about drinking treated water?

The U.S. EPA has established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for drinking water of 0.1 ppm. An adult would have to drink more than 350 gallons of water ever day at the MCL of 0.1 ppm for a lifetime to exceed the NOEL

The above statements are based on exposure or consumption of endothall by an adult at the EPA established and proposed tolerances or levels predicted from animal studies. To protect yourself and the environment when using pesticides, carefully read and follow label directions.

*The NOEL is the highest dose at which no adverse effects were observed in laboratory animals. For regulatory purposes, the NOEL is selected from the laboratory mammalian species that shows the greatest sestivity to the effects of the pesticide.

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