

Pesticide Container Disposal

LONNIE MENGARELLI, AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCE AGENT

This is a reminder that pesticide containers are not to be repurposed after the pesticide has been used. Labels on non-refillable containers state, "Do not reuse or refill this container." Some containers are refillable, and those labels typically say, "Refill this container with pesticide only. Do not reuse this container for any other purpose." In some cases, the label may say, "Refill this container with [common chemical name]" or "This is a sealed, refillable container to be used only for [common chemical name]," which indicates that it can be refilled with the same pesticide by a retailer. These labeling statements make every pesticide container, from a 2.5-gallon jug up to a 30-gallon tote, illegal to reuse. Reusing containers for any other purpose is considered pesticide misuse and a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. A pesticide container, even if it is empty or the label is removed (defaced), remains part of the pesticide product.

After use, pesticide containers should be disposed of properly. Disposal options may be limited by local regulations and ordinances. Containers that have been triple rinsed and crushed and/or punctured may be accepted by sanitary landfills or landfills that accept industrial waste. Check with your landfill operator prior to taking empty containers for disposal. Triple-rinsed containers can also be returned to the supplier. In addition, some counties in Kansas have a plastic pesticide container recycling program. Check with your county's Extension office or Household Hazardous Waste program for more information.

Lonnie Mengarelli is a K-State Research and Extension Agriculture agent assigned to Southwind District. He may be reached at mengo57@ksu.edu or 620-223-3720

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sarah Lancaster, Extension Weed Science Specialist
slancaster@ksu.edu

Frannie Miller, Pesticide Safety and IPM Coordinator
fmiller@ksu.edu