

Info **VISIONMAX**[®]

Silviculture Herbicide/Herbicide Sylvicole

Questions and Answers about VisionMAX Herbicide



This Q&A is designed to answer many common questions concerning the use of VisionMAX[®] silvicultural herbicide in forest vegetation management programs. The information is based on research conducted by Monsanto and its affiliates and other independent researchers. The information refers specifically and exclusively to VisionMAX herbicide.

THE USE OF VISION HERBICIDE IN FORESTRY

Q. What is VisionMAX Herbicide?

A. VisionMAX Herbicide is a broad-spectrum foliar-applied herbicide exclusively used in forestry. VisionMAX herbicide is water-soluble, has no residual activity and is essentially non-toxic to humans and wildlife. VisionMAX herbicide contains glyphosate (49% potassium salt of glyphosate), the active ingredient, a surfactant, which helps in the penetration of the active ingredient and water. VisionMAX herbicide is further diluted in water before application. The active ingredient, glyphosate, is present in a number of commercial products commonly used by farmers and homeowners to control unwanted vegetation.

Q. Why use VisionMAX Herbicide?

A. During early stand establishment, softwood crop trees often compete with non-commercial brush and/or herbaceous species for soil moisture, nutrients, sunlight and space. Thus, VisionMAX herbicide is used to control competing vegetation in order to improve the growth rate and survival of the crop trees (pine, fir, spruce). In comparison to mechanical alternatives for vegetation control, VisionMAX herbicide is more cost effective, offers better performance and increases worker safety.

Q. Who has approved VisionMAX Herbicide for use in forestry?

A. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency, a section of Health Canada, in consultation with Agriculture Canada, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Forest Service granted the registration. Glyphosate was first approved for use in forestry in 1984 under the trade name Roundup[®]. Vision herbicide was introduced in 1987 to enable the manufacturer, Monsanto Canada, Inc., to better service the needs of the forest industry through more targeted services. VisionMAX was introduced to the Canadian Market in 2004. In addition, to federal legislation and approval, all provinces exercise their own laws and regulations that further govern the use of herbicides.

VISIONMAX HERBICIDE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - HUMAN

Q. What impact does VisionMAX Herbicide have on humans?

A. Decades of extensive toxicological studies have demonstrated that glyphosate, the active ingredient in VisionMAX herbicide, does not cause cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects, or allergic reactions. These are the conclusions of both Canadian regulatory officials and the World Health Organization. The mode of action of glyphosate affects the production of certain amino acids, a metabolic process found only in plants and a few microorganisms.

Q. When can a site sprayed with VisionMAX Herbicide be re-entered?

A. After an application, the site should be allowed to completely dry before re-entry, to avoid off-site tracking of VisionMAX herbicide. This usually occurs within 24 hours after application.

Q. Can I eat berries if they have been sprayed with VisionMAX Herbicide?

A. Glyphosate is poorly absorbed by the fruits of most species. Studies have shown that by simply rinsing the berries after application, over 90% of the glyphosate is removed. However, we do not recommend eating berries in posted areas after spraying with VisionMAX herbicide. In following years, berries can be picked and eaten.

VISIONMAX HERBICIDE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - WILDLIFE

Q. What are the effects of a VisionMAX Herbicide program on the wildlife in the area?

A. A tending program will have varied effects depending on the species. Landmark research has been conducted on the subject, including the Oregon Forest Ecosystem Study (OR - USA), Austin Pond Herbicide Study (ME – USA), the Carnation Creek Herbicide Study (BC) and the Falling Snow Ecosystem Project (ON). From these studies, we have seen that the effects of herbicide applications cause some animals to be temporarily displaced while other species benefit and flourish. The change is not reflected in a lower diversity of species but rather a change in that diversity which mimics natural disturbances in the forest.

Q. What are the effects of VisionMAX Herbicide to high browse species?

A. VisionMAX herbicide is known to provide poor control of several prime browse species such as willow and dogwood. As a result, considerable browse can be left on a site following an application of VisionMAX herbicide. As game animals do not avoid browsing vegetation treated with VisionMAX, these species remain a potential food source. In cutovers where little browse is available, large game animals temporarily find food in adjacent areas. In addition, VisionMAX herbicide does not affect seeds that have not germinated. As these seeds grow into new plants, they become available as browse. Studies have shown that seven years after herbicide application, there is a four to eight-fold increase in available browse when compared to non-treated sites.

VISIONMAX HERBICIDE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - WATER

Q. Can VisionMAX Herbicide contaminate groundwater or water bodies?

A. VisionMAX herbicide applications are not permitted over water bodies, and buffer zones are put in place so as to ensure that the product doesn't come into contact (through drift) with water bodies during application. The product binds tightly to soil particles, restricting it from leaching either into streams, lakes or groundwater.

VISIONMAX HERBICIDE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - SOIL

Q. Does VisionMAX Herbicide stay in the soil?

A. Any VisionMAX Herbicide that makes its way into the soil will bind very tightly to the soil particles, and will not move off the treated site. Microorganisms present in the soil, will completely biodegrade the ingredients in VisionMAX herbicide to naturally occurring compounds such as carbon dioxide, water, nitrogen and phosphorous.

Q. What impact does VisionMAX Herbicide have on the treated site?

A. VisionMAX herbicide will only control plants that are directly sprayed. The herbicide will have no effect on plants that are not in direct contact with the spray solution. VisionMAX herbicide is not active in the soil so it is not taken up by the root systems of other plants. The herbicide does not affect seeds already present in the soil, so vegetation will start to grow again on treated sites the following year.

The public is encouraged to become more knowledgeable about Vision herbicide. Further information may be obtained by contacting either the forest company or governmental department responsible for the application, or please call the Monsanto CustomerCare™ at 1-800-667-4944 or Engage Agro at 866-613-3336

