

Types of herbicides and how to use them safely

Herbicide application

When applying the herbicide, one should spray only when the wind is not strong and when there is no rain indicators and also ensure sprayer and nozzles are well maintained for optimum performance. People without personal protective gears should stay away during spraying and herbicides should be applied by trained personnel.

Equally, children should stay away from herbicides and empty bottles and packets and don't eat drink or smoke during handling and spraying herbicides. Return empty bottles to collection point for hazardous waste or if not, rinse the herbicide container 3 times, puncture them at the bottom and bury deep in soils.

Similarly, don't use empty herbicide containers for domestic purposes, don't wash sprayer in nearby stream after spraying and one should also wash and change clothes before eating and rinse eyes with water for at least 10 minutes in case of contamination.

Don't take palm oil or milk in case of dizziness after spraying and go to hospital for treatment. However, as effective herbicide use depends on herbicide type, stage to apply and purpose, herbicide is applied as pre planting, pre emergence and post emergence herbicides.

Directly apply non selective herbicides to weeds only and protect crop leaves though for every post emergence herbicide, use a shield around the nozzle when applying and finally, use manual labour to weed cassava of less than 8 weeks.