

2,4,5-T Encyclopedia Article

2,4,5-T

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2,4,5-T

A broad-leaf **herbicide**, now banned for use in the United States. Its full name is 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic **acid**. After postemergence treatment it is readily absorbed by foliage and roots and translocated throughout the plant. This herbicide gained much notoriety during and after the Vietnam War because it was a component in the defoliant **Agent Orange**, which has been implicated in **cancer** occurrence in some war veterans. The **carcinogen** 2,3,7,8-TCDD is formed as a byproduct in the manufacture of 2,4,5-T. The **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) restricted the use of 2,4,5-T in 1971, and suspended usage in 1979 following concerns that it caused miscarriages in women living in areas where application of 2,4,5-T had occurred.