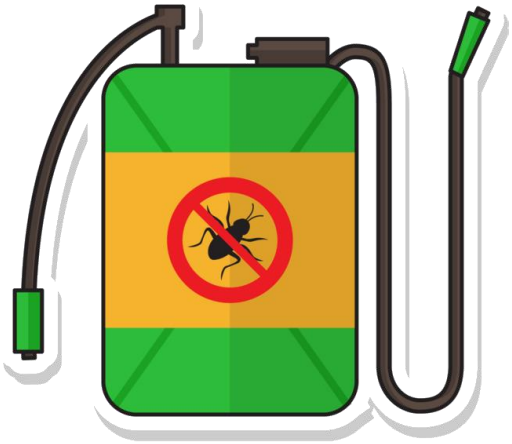
PESTICIDES

- Pesticides are a general class of chemicals or biological agents used to control, repel, attract or kill pests.

- Pesticides are used for destroying pests, they are generally derived from Arsenic, Mercury, Fluorine, Sulphur and Copper and Cyanide.



Pesticides can be grouped according to the types of pests which they kill:

Insectides	⇨	Insectides
Herbicides	⇨	Plants
Bactericides	⇨	Bacteria
Fungicides	⇨	Fungi
Rodenticides	⇨	Rodents
Larvicides	⇨	Larvae

Some chemical pesticides are as follows:

i. Organophosphate pesticides
ii. Carbamate pesticides
iii. Organochlorine insecticides
iv. Pyrethroid pesticides
v. Sulfonylurea herbicides

Pesticides As Pollutants

- Pesticides cause environmental pollution, they get adsorbed by soil results in contamination to plants grown on it. And the contaminated plants if consume by us results in the damaging of human biological systems.

1. Effect of pesticide on soil

Pesticides are composed chemicals that are persistent soil contaminants, which means they can harmfully influence soil conservation and this type of situation can exist for exist for years.

2. Effect of pesticide on soil organisms

Pesticides are toxic to living organisms. Excessive use of pesticides damages agricultural land as it destroys beneficial insect species other soil microorganisms which are accountable for nitrification and nitrogen fixation, therefore it reduces the concentration of essential plant nutrients in the soil such nitrogen and phosphorous.

3. Animal and human exposure

Pesticides are responsible for number of health problems.

4. Pesticides in water and atmosphere

Less than half of the applied pesticides reach the pests and most of it becomes a pollutant in the environment as they are applied by spraying. The largest amount settle onto land and water close to the point of application and some smaller amounts are swept into the atmosphere with the winds, and can be carried many miles.