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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
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SETH BRADSTREET
COMMISSIONER

HENRY JENNINGS
DIRECTOR

TO: Board Members
FROM: Lebelle Hicks PhD DABT
RE: Vinegar as an Herbicide

December 2, 2010

During the discussion of homemade, consumer product pesticide policy during the last meeting, there was some support from the Board not to discourage the use of vinegar (5% food-grade acetic acid) as an herbicide. Attached is the label for the 6.25% acetic acid product registered in Maine in 2010. When an individual uses the 5% vinegar product as an herbicide, they do not have access to the precautionary, protective equipment requirements and directions for use statements on the labels. This means they are either “winging it” or are relying on information from nonregulated sources such as the Internet information in the second attachment.

There are six products registered federally containing acetic acid as their sole active ingredient. The Maine registration status is found in Table 1.

Table 1. Maine Registration Status of Acetic acid Products for 2010 (NSPIRS 2010)				
Product	EPA#	% Acetic Acid	Signal Word	ME-2010
Eastman Acetic Acid P Grain and Hay Preservatives	8655-11	99.7	Danger	No
Ecosharp Weed & Grass Killer	69836-1	25	Danger	No
Fleischman’s Vinegar Weed Control	85208-1	20	Danger	Yes
Weed Works Weed & Grass Killer	81936-1	20	Danger	Yes (distributor product)
Ecosharp Weed & Grass Killer Ready-to Use	69836-2	6.25	Warning	Yes (distributor product)
Grotek Elimaweed and Grass Killer	86313-1	7.15	Caution	Yes

From an acute risk perspective, using unregistered vinegar, without appropriate personal protective clothing, poses a risk to the eyes. In addition, efficacy depends on the stage of growth of the weeds.

Received But Not Reviewed

Date: 10/3/06

Initial: CP

FRONT PANEL

EcoSharp™
WEED & GRASS KILLER
Ready To Use

made with VINEGAR & LEMON JUICE COMPONENTS

For Residential Use Only

Active Ingredients:

Acetic Acid-Ethanoic Acid (C ₂ H ₄ O ₂).....	6.25%
Other Ingredients.....	93.75%
Total.....	100.00%

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
WARNING

(If you do not understand the label, find someone to explain it to you in detail.)

FIRST AID

If in eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. • Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye. • Call a poison control center or doctor for advice.
If swallowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call a poison control center or doctor immediately for treatment advice. • Have person sip a glass of water if able to swallow. • Do not induce vomiting unless told to do so by poison control center or doctor. • Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.
If on skin or clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take off contaminated clothing. • Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes. • Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.
If inhaled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move person to fresh air. • If person is not breathing, call 911 or an ambulance, then give artificial respiration, preferably mouth-to-mouth, if possible. • Call a poison control center or doctor for further treatment advice.

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN: Probable mucosal damage may contraindicate the use of gastric lavage.

Have the product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor, or going for treatment.

Questions? 1-866-298-2229

Backed for:
COVAL Corp. • 8604 Main Street • Suite 1 • Williamsville NY 14221
PA Reg. No. 69836-2 EPA Est. No. 73793-CAN-001

EcoSharp™ WEED & GRASS KILLER-RTU

**PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS
HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND ANIMALS**

WARNING: Causes substantial but temporary eye injury. Wear protective eyewear such as safety glasses when applying. Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling and before eating, drinking, chewing gum or using tobacco.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Do not apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present, or to intertidal areas below the mean high water mark. Do not contaminate water by cleaning of equipment or disposal of wash waters.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW TO USE THIS PRODUCT IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH ITS LABELING.

EcoSharp™ Weed & Grass Killer-Ready To Use is a foliar active weed control product which contains vinegar as the active ingredient and extracts from lemon juice. It is non-selective to both broadleaf and grassy weeds and is used on non-food areas such as borders, driveways, sidewalks, around mature tree bases, around buildings, in fence rows, in greenhouses, and around flower beds.

EcoSharp Weed & Grass Killer-Ready To Use is fast acting. Foliar contact results in rapid desiccation and control of annual weeds and grasses, and top growth reduction of herbaceous perennial weeds and grasses (see Table on page. 3). Re-treatment is required for control of established perennial weeds.

FOR EARLY SEASON ANNUAL WEED CONTROL: When weeds are small (3 to 5 leaf) and actively growing, apply EcoSharp Weed & Grass Killer-Ready To Use to the foliage of weeds, making sure that all of the foliage is wet. Thorough coverage is necessary to achieve desirable control.

EcoSharp Weed & Grass Killer-Ready To Use is fast acting. It can be applied up to one hour before rainfall and still be effective. If it rains less than one hour after treatment, determine if treated leaves are showing symptoms. If symptoms are not obvious, wait until the leaves dry and re-treat.

EcoSharp™ WEED & GRASS KILLER-RTU

FOR CONTROL OF LARGER ANNUALS AND BURNDOWN OF PERENNIAL WEED GROWTH: Larger annual weeds and perennials are more difficult to control and may require re-treatment. Treat initially as above and repeat if new growth of leaves appear. Thorough coverage of all green foliage is necessary to achieve desirable control.

Best results are achieved from spring/early summer applications to actively growing young weeds. Weeds that are mature, dormant, or hardened due to moisture stress are more tolerant of herbicide treatments. Only contacted vegetation will be affected. Rainfall within one hour of application will reduce degree of control.

Application to reactive metals such as aluminum, tin, iron, or items such as fencing or lawn furniture may cause staining, mottling, or otherwise mar finished metal surfaces.

DO NOT APPLY THIS PRODUCT THROUGH ANY TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

DO NOT ALLOW CONTACT WITH DESIRABLE PLANTS. OVERSPRAY OR DRIFT WILL INJURE OR KILL CONTACTED VEGETATION.

TYPICAL WEEDS CONTROLLED
ANNUAL BROADLEAF WEEDS: Black medic, Chickweed, Cinquefoil (rough), Lambsquarters, Mustard spp., Oxalis spp., Pigweed spp., Ragweed spp.
PERENNIAL BROADLEAF WEEDS: Cinquefoil (silvery), Dandelion, Plantain spp., Toadflax, Tufted vetch, Wild carrot.
ANNUAL GRASSES: Crabgrass, Foxtail spp. (not for use on foxtail spp. In California)
PERENNIAL GRASSES: Bluegrass, Quakgrass

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Do not contaminate water, food or feed by storage or disposal.

STORAGE: Keep from freezing. Store only in original tightly sealed container and out of reach of children.

DISPOSAL: If empty: Do not reuse this container. Place in trash for recycling if available. If partially filled: call your local solid waste agency or 1-800-CLEANUP for disposal instructions. Never place unused product down an indoor or outdoor drain.

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EcoSharp™ WEED & GRASS KILLER-RTU

CONDITIONS OF SALE

The label instructions for the use of this product reflect the opinion of experts based on research and field use. The directions are believed to be reliable and must be followed carefully. However, it is impossible to eliminate all risks inherently associated with the use of this product. Crop injury, ineffective or other unintended consequences may result because of such factors as weather conditions, presence of other materials, herbicide-resistant weed preparations or the use or application of the product contrary to label instructions, all of which are beyond the control of Ecoval. ALL SUCH RISKS SHALL BE ASSUMED BY THE USER. Ecoval shall not be responsible for losses or damage resulting from the use of this product in any manner not specifically set forth on this label.

Ecoval warrants only that the material contained herein conforms to the chemical description on the label and is reasonably fit for use therein described when used in accordance with the directions for use, subject to the risks referred to above. ECOVAL DOES NOT MAKE OR AUTHORIZE ANY AGENT OR REPRESENTATIVE TO MAKE ANY OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AND EXPRESSLY EXCLUDES AND DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ECOVAL'S EXCLUSIVE REMEDY AND ECOVAL'S EXCLUSIVE LIABILITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO REPAYMENT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THIS PRODUCT. In no case shall ECOVAL or the seller be liable for consequential, special or indirect damages resulting from the use of the product. The foregoing is a condition of sale by Ecoval and is accepted as such by the buyer.

U.S. Patent No. 5,573,997

#1106

Packed for:

ECOVAL Corp. • 8604 Main Street • Suite 1 • Williamsville NY 14221

EcoSharp™ is a trademark of Ecoval Corp.

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How to Make Your Own Herbicide

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With rising interest in natural green living, making your own eco-friendly **herbicide** is one way you can maintain an organic garden. You will probably have most of the ingredients for making natural herbicides in your home because the needed ingredients are common kitchen pantry items.

Basic Vinegar Base Recipe

The most common and frequently used ingredient in homemade herbicides is vinegar. You can use almost any kind of vinegar, including inexpensive plain white vinegar. To make ½ cup of herbicide use:

- ¼ cup vinegar
- ¼ cup table salt
- ¼ cup dish soap

Mix these three ingredients together and place them into a spray bottle and then spray the mixture on your plants. The vinegar kills the weeds and the salt prevents the weeds from growing. Soap permits the herbicide mixture to cling to the plant.

Another vinegar recipe includes the use of gin:

- 1 oz. gin
- 1 oz. dish soap
- 1 oz. vinegar

Vinegar herbicides are considered broad non-specific herbicides and will kill anything they come in contact with. As a result, it is important for you to pay attention to wind conditions before using the mixture. You also need to know whether there is the potential for rain or mist because a wind or a breeze will spread the herbicide beyond the area where you are spraying it. Moisture, such as rain or mist, will also dilute the herbicide and make it ineffective.

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