PESTICIDE MOVEMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT

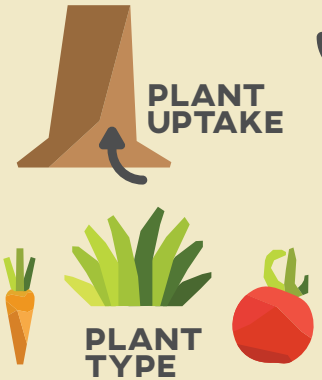
Pesticides have the potential to move after they are first applied. Where they go and how long they may last can depend on many factors. The combination of the following factors influences pesticide movement.

AIR

Increasing temperature, sunlight, and rain may increase pesticide breakdown. This and other weather conditions affect the potential for pesticide movement.

PLANTS

Some pesticides are not easily taken up by plants, and some plant types take up pesticides more than others.

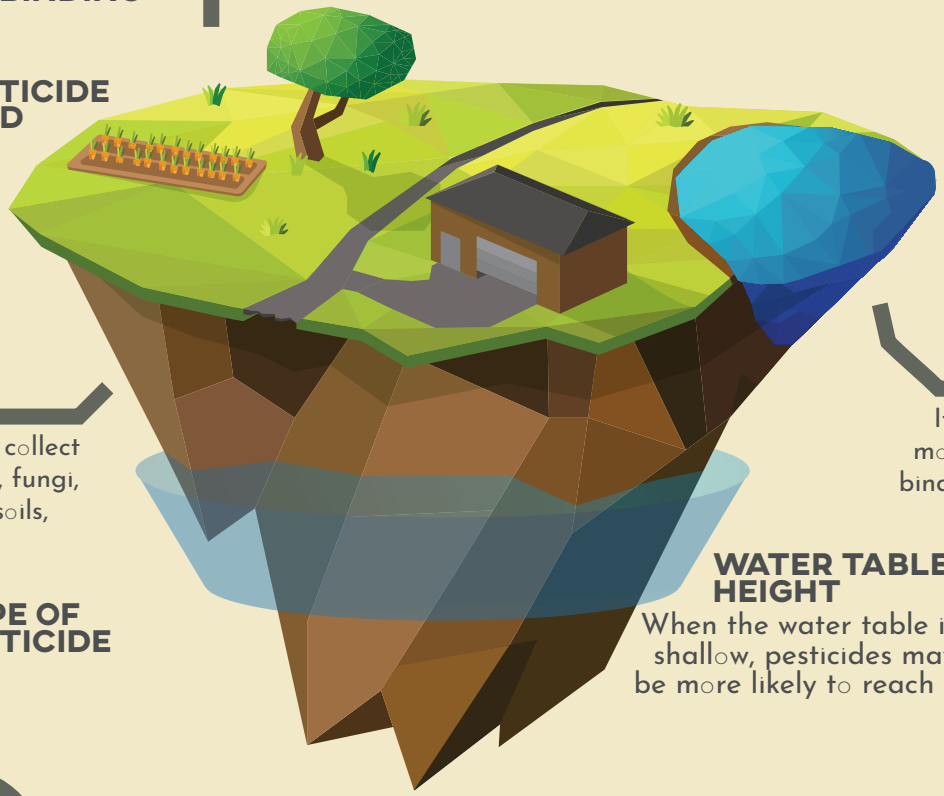


ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

DROPLET SIZE

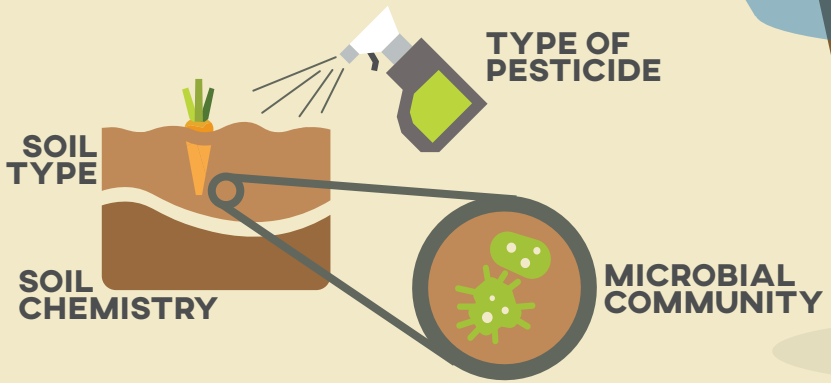
SMALL DROPLETS CARRY FURTHER BUT DISSIPATE FASTER

LARGE DROPLETS FALL FASTER BUT STAY ON TARGET BETTER



SOIL

Some soils hold onto pesticides more easily, or collect water so pesticides don't move as far. Bacteria, fungi, and other microbes vary across locations and soils, which can also affect pesticide breakdown.

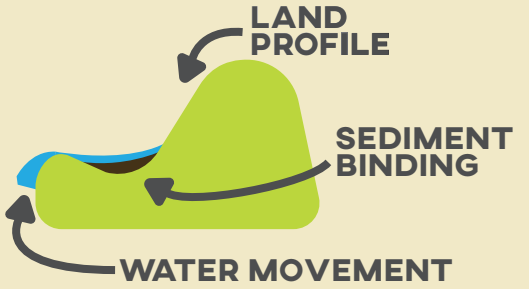


NATURAL WATER

If a pesticide does reach water, it may not move as much as you think. Some pesticides bind tightly to sediment where they settle out.

WATER TABLE HEIGHT

When the water table is shallow, pesticides may be more likely to reach it.



For more information about pesticides or their movement in the environment, contact us M-F 8am-12pm PST at 800-858-7378.

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NATIONAL PESTICIDE INFORMATION CENTER