# A screen shot of a computer  Description automatically generatedPesticides and fertilizers

Pesticides and fertilizer are widely used for any plant and crop cultivation. Even natural and organic compounds can pose health concerns if used improperly or without proper precautions.

Let us look at protective clothing that should be worn during any mixing or application of chemicals:

* Long sleeves and pants should always be worn as well as hats and gloves for maximum skin protection
* Protective eyewear such as safety goggles should be worn to prevent mixture from splashing into eyes
* Shoes should be close toed, worn with socks and a material that can be wiped clean or washed

Some chemicals may require more or special personal protective equipment (PPE) such as a Tyvek suit or respirator. Always read the label to identify PPE specific to the chemical(s) being used.

Other steps in prevention of contamination:

* Ensure mixing and use of chemicals is in a well-ventilated area
* Be sure to remove all contaminated clothing when finished working with the chemical(s)
* Wash any contaminated clothing separate from uncontaminated clothing
* Remove and clean gloves, eye protection, respirator and any other PPE worn immediately following work with the chemical
* Read the label for any additional instructions on safe chemical use
* Inspect PPE to be used before using chemicals to ensure they are in good condition
* Any employees not working with the chemical should be out of the area
* Know what to do in case of an exposure regarding first aid and medical treatment
* If spraying outdoors avoid windy days which are unpredictable with spreading the chemical
* ****Once the job is complete wash hands and body to remove contaminants