

Paraquat

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Paraquat Latest News

Telangana recently banned paraquat, one of the world's most widely used and highly toxic weedicides, becoming only the third State in India to do so.

About Paraquat

- Paraquat, or **paraquat dichloride**, is a **toxic chemical** that is **used worldwide** as an **herbicide** (plant killer), usually for weed and grass control.
- Paraquat's origins date back to the **1880s**, when it was **first developed as a chemical dye**. Its herbicidal properties were discovered in the 1950s.
- It is a **synthetic (human-made) herbicide**.
- It is **also used as a desiccant**, which **dries out the crop before harvest**. Paraquat is sometimes **used as a plant growth regulator**.
- It may induce or delay flowering. It has no residual activity in soil.
- **Major Concerns:**

- It causes many **health issues and human fatalities** each year from **accidental exposure and suicide**.
- It is known for its **extreme toxicity** and **lack of a specific antidote**.
- When paraquat is ingested, it **damages the lining of the mouth, stomach, and intestines** upon contact.
- It then **spreads throughout the body, damaging organs**, but primarily the lungs, liver, and kidneys.
- More than **70% of paraquat self-poisonings result in death**.
- Paraquat is **banned in 74 countries**.
- It is **not yet banned nationwide in India**. In India, **Kerala** became the **first State to ban** it in 2011.
- **Other states** which banned paraquat are **Odisha, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh**.

News: TH

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