

## 1. CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

**Product Name:** Nufarm Ethephon 2 Plant Growth Regulator  
**EPA Reg. No.:** 228-660  
**Synonyms:** Ethephon: (2-chloroethyl) Phosphonic Acid  
**Product Type:** Plant Growth Regulator

**Company Name:** Nufarm Americas Inc.  
 150 Harvester Drive, Suite 200  
 Burr Ridge, IL 60527

**Telephone Numbers:** For Chemical Emergency, Spill, Leak, Fire, Exposure, or Accident,  
 Call CHEMTREC Day or Night: 1-800-424-9300  
 For Medical Emergencies Only, Call 1-877-325-1840

**Date of Issue:** October 13, 2009      **Supersedes:** New  
**Sections Revised:** New

## 2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

**Emergency Overview:**

**Appearance and Odor:** Colorless to pale yellow colored liquid.

**Warning Statements:** Danger. Keep out of reach of children. Corrosive causes irreversible eye damage. Harmful if swallowed or absorbed through skin. Do not get in eyes or on clothing. Avoid contact with skin. Do not inhale vapors as product will irritate mucous membranes.

**Potential Health Effects:**

**Likely Routes of Exposure:** Inhalation, eye and skin contact.

**Eye Contact:** Causes irreversible eye damage. Vapors and mist can cause irritation, redness, tearing.

**Skin Contact:** Slightly toxic and moderately irritating based on toxicity studies.

**Ingestion:** Harmful if swallowed. May cause burns to mouth and esophagus, chest pain, abdominal pain if ingested.

**Inhalation:** Low inhalation toxicity based on toxicity studies. Mists may cause upper respiratory tract irritation, coughing, sore throat if inhaled.

**Medical Conditions Aggravated by Exposure:** Inhalation of product may aggravate existing chronic respiratory problems such as asthma, emphysema or bronchitis. Skin contact may aggravate existing skin disease.

See Section 11: TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION for more information.

**Potential Environmental Effects:**

Ethephon is slightly toxic to birds and aquatic invertebrates and practically non-toxic to slightly toxic to aquatic organisms

See Section 12: ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION for more information.

## 3. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

COMPONENT	CAS NO.	% BY WEIGHT
Ethephon	16672-87-0	21.7
Other Ingredients		78.3

**4. FIRST AID MEASURES**

**If in Eyes:** Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye. Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.

**If Swallowed:** 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 the poison control center or doctor. Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.

**If on Skin:** Take off contaminated clothing. Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15 to 20 minutes. Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.

**If Inhaled:** Move person to fresh air. If person is not breathing, call 911 or an ambulance, then give artificial respiration, preferably by 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. No specific antidote is available. All treatments should be based on observed signs and symptoms of distress in the patient. Overexposure to materials other than this product may have occurred.

Victims of severe overexposure by inhalation should be kept under medical observation for up to 72 hours for delayed onset of pulmonary edema. In a victim of overexposure by ingestion, careful gastric lavage is required due to the possibility of stomach or esophageal perforation. This material is an acid but the use of alkaline substances to neutralize it is contraindicated.

**5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES**

**Flash Point:** Not applicable due to aqueous formulation

**Autoignition Temperature:** Not determined

**Flammability Limits:** Not determined

**Extinguishing Media:** Recommended for large fires: foam or water spray. Recommended for small fires: dry chemical or carbon dioxide.

**Special Fire Fighting Procedures:** Firefighters should wear NIOSH/MSHA approved self-contained breathing apparatus and full fire-fighting turn out gear. Dike area to prevent runoff and contamination of water sources. Dispose of fire control water later.

**Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards:** If water is used to fight fire, contain runoff, using dikes to prevent contamination of water supplies. Dispose of fire control water later.

**Hazardous Decomposition Materials (Under Fire Conditions):** May produce gases such as hydrogen chloride and oxides of carbon and nitrogen.

**National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Hazard Rating:**

**Rating for this product: Health: 3    Flammability: 1    Reactivity: 0**

Hazards Scale: 0 = Minimal    1 = Slight    2 = Moderate    3 = Serious    4 = Severe

**6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES**

**Personal Precautions:** Wear appropriate protective gear for the situation. See Personal Protection information in Section 8.

**Environmental Precautions:** Prevent material from entering public sewer systems or any waterways. Do not flush to drain. Large spills to soil or similar surfaces may necessitate removal of topsoil. The affected area should be removed and placed in an appropriate container for disposal.

**Methods for Containment:** Dike spill using absorbent or impervious materials such as earth, sand or clay. Collect and contain contaminated absorbent and dike material for disposal.

**Methods for Cleanup and Disposal:** Pump any free liquid into an appropriate closed container. Collect washings for disposal. Decontaminate tools and equipment following cleanup. See Section 13: DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS for more information.

**Other Information:** Large spills may be reportable to the National Response Center (800-424-8802) and to state and/or local agencies.

**7. HANDLING AND STORAGE**

**Handling:**

Do not get in eyes or on skin or on clothing. Avoid contact with skin. Users should wash hands before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco, or using the toilet. Remove clothing/Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) immediately if pesticide gets inside. Then wash thoroughly and put on clean clothing. Remove PPE immediately after handling this product. As soon as possible, wash thoroughly and change into clean clothing. Wash the outside of gloves before removing.

**Storage:**

Store in original container and keep tightly closed. Store in a cool, dry place. Do not contaminate water, food, or feed by storage or disposal.

**8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION**

**Engineering Controls:**

Where engineering controls are indicated by specific use conditions or a potential for excessive exposure, use local exhaust ventilation at the point of generation.

**Personal Protective Equipment:**

**Eye/Face Protection:** To avoid contact with eyes, wear safety goggles. An emergency eyewash or water supply should be readily accessible to the work area.

**Skin Protection:** To avoid contact with skin, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirt, socks, shoes and chemical-resistant gloves made of any waterproof material. An emergency shower or water supply should be readily accessible to the work area.

**Respiratory Protection:** Not normally required. If vapors or mists exceed acceptable levels, wear NIOSH approved air-purifying respirator with cartridges/canisters approved for use against pesticides.

**General Hygiene Considerations:** Personal hygiene is an important work practice exposure control measure and the following general measures should be taken when working with or handling this material: 1) do not store, use and/or consume foods, beverages, tobacco products, or cosmetics in areas where this material is stored; 2) wash hands and face carefully before eating, drinking, using tobacco, applying cosmetics or using the toilet.

**Exposure Guidelines:**

Component	OSHA		ACGIH		Unit
	TWA	STEL	TWA	STEL	
Ethephon	NE	NE	NE	NE	

NE = Not Established

**9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

**Appearance and Odor:** Colorless to pale yellow colored liquid.

<b>Boiling Point:</b>	Not determined	<b>Solubility in Water:</b>	Soluble
<b>Density:</b>	9.7 pounds/gallon	<b>Specific Gravity:</b>	1.106 @ 20°C
<b>Evaporation Rate:</b>	Not determined	<b>Vapor Density:</b>	Not determined
<b>Freezing Point:</b>	Not determined	<b>Vapor Pressure:</b>	Not determined
<b>pH:</b>	1.98	<b>Viscosity:</b>	1.948 cSt @ 20°C

**Note:** Physical data are typical values, but may vary from sample to sample. A typical value should not be construed as a guaranteed analysis or as a specification.

## 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Chemical Stability:** This material is stable under normal handling and storage conditions.

**Conditions to Avoid:** Elevated temperatures and extreme humidity.

**Incompatible Materials:** Strong oxidizing agents and alkaline materials. Corrosive to metals such as iron, aluminum, zinc, mild steel and copper.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** Under fire conditions may produce gases such as hydrogen chloride and oxides of carbon and nitrogen.

**Hazardous Reactions:** Hazardous polymerization will not occur.

## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**Toxicological Data:**

Except as noted, data from laboratory studies conducted on a similar, but not identical, formulation:

**Oral:** Rat LD<sub>50</sub>: >500 mg/kg

**Dermal:** Rabbit LD<sub>50</sub>: >2,000 mg/kg

**Inhalation:** Rat 4-hr LC<sub>50</sub>: >4.5 mg/l (technical Ethephon)

**Eye Irritation:** Rabbit: Corrosive

**Skin Irritation:** Rabbit: Moderately irritating

**Skin Sensitization:** Not a contact sensitizer in guinea pigs following repeated skin exposure. (technical Ethephon)

**Subchronic (Target Organ) Effects:** Repeated overexposure to ethephon may cause cholinesterase inhibition, red blood cell effects and/or kidney effects.

**Carcinogenicity / Chronic Health Effects:** Prolonged overexposure to ethephon may cause cholinesterase inhibition, body weight decreases and organ effects (thyroid, kidney and liver). Ethephon did not cause cancer in laboratory animal studies.

**Reproductive Toxicity:** Ethephon caused decreased pup body weights at the highest does in a two generation study in rats. No effects were observed on fertility, gestation, mating, organ weights or histopathology.

**Developmental Toxicity:** Ethephon did not cause developmental effects in animals.

**Genotoxicity:** There have been some positive and some negative studies, but the weight of evidence is that ethephon is not genotoxic or mutagenic.

**Assessment Carcinogenicity:** None listed with ACGIH, IARC, NTP or OSHA.

See Section 2: HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION for more information.

## 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**Ecotoxicity:**

Data on Ethephon (75%):

96-hour LC <sub>50</sub> Fathead Minnow:	88 mg/L	Bobwhite Quail Oral LD <sub>50</sub>	596 mg/kg
48-hour EC <sub>50</sub> Daphnia:	54 ppm	Mallard Duck 8-day Dietary LC <sub>50</sub> :	>5,000 ppm

**Environmental Fate:**

Ethephon is stable to hydrolysis in acidic water, but does rapidly hydrolyze in neutral and alkaline environments with a half-life ranging from a few days to a few weeks. Ethephon is stable to photolysis in water with an estimated half-life of 139 days. Photodegradation on soil does not appear to be a significant route of dissipation. Ethephon degrades fairly rapidly in soil under aerobic and in water under anaerobic conditions with half-life ranging from 7 to 30 days. Ethephon is characterized as having moderate to low mobility in soil.

**13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Waste Disposal Method:**

Pesticides wastes are acutely hazardous. Improper disposal of excess pesticide, spray mixture, or rinsate, is a violation of Federal law. If these wastes cannot be disposed of by use according to label instructions, contact your State Pesticide or Environmental Control Agency, or the Hazardous Waste representative at the nearest EPA Regional Office for guidance.

**Container Handling and Disposal:**

Nonrefillable container. Do not reuse or refill this container. Triple rinse container (or equivalent) promptly after emptying. Triple rinse as follows: Empty the remaining contents into application equipment or a mix tank and drain for 10 seconds after the flow begins to drip. Fill the container 1/4 full with water and recap. Shake for 10 seconds. Pour rinsate into application equipment or a mix tank or store rinsate for later use or disposal. Drain for 10 seconds after the flow begins to drip. Repeat this procedure two more times. Then offer for recycling or reconditioning, or puncture and dispose of in a sanitary landfill, or by other procedures approved by State and local authorities. Plastic containers are also disposable by incineration, or, if allowed by State and local authorities, by burning. If burned stay out of smoke.

**14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**

Follow the precautions indicated in Section 7: HANDLING AND STORAGE of this MSDS.

**DOT**

UN 3265, CORROSIVE LIQUID, ACIDIC, ORGANIC, N.O.S., (ETHEPHON), 8, III

**IMDG**

UN 3265, CORROSIVE LIQUID, ACIDIC, ORGANIC, N.O.S., (ETHEPHON), 8, III

**IATA**

UN 3265, CORROSIVE LIQUID, ACIDIC, ORGANIC, N.O.S., (ETHEPHON), 8, III

**15. REGULATORY INFORMATION**

**U.S. Federal Regulations:**

**TSCA Inventory:** This product is exempted from TSCA because it is solely for FIFRA regulated use.

**SARA Hazard Notification/Reporting:**

**Hazard Categories Under Criteria of SARA Title III Rules (40 CFR Part 370):**

Immediate

**Section 313 Toxic Chemical(s):**

None

**Reportable Quantity (RQ) under U.S. CERCLA:**

None

**RCRA Waste Code:**

None

**State Information:**

Other state regulations may apply. Check individual state requirements.

**California Proposition 65:** Not Listed

**16. OTHER INFORMATION**

This Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) serves different purposes than and DOES NOT REPLACE OR MODIFY THE EPA-ACCEPTED PRODUCT LABELING (attached to and accompanying the product container). This MSDS provides important health, safety and environmental information for employers, employees, emergency responders and others handling large quantities of the product in activities generally other than product use, while the labeling provides that information specifically for product use in the ordinary course.

Use, storage and disposal of pesticide products are regulated by the EPA under the authority of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) through the product labeling, and all necessary and appropriate precautionary, use, storage, and disposal information is set forth on that labeling. It is a violation of Federal law to use a pesticide product in any manner not prescribed on the EPA-accepted label.

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