

Diquat (C₁₂H₁₂Br₂N₂)

What is Diquat?

Diquat dibromide is a non-selective contact algicide, defoliant, desiccant, and herbicide. It is used to control broadleaf and grassy weeds in non-crop (including residential) and aquatic areas. As a desiccant/defoliant, it is used on seed crops and potatoes.

Does Diquat have any additional names?

9,10-dihydro-8a,10a-diazoniaphenanthrene ion. It is sold as diquat dibromide and is usually formulated as an aqueous solution.

What are the known health effects?

Some people who drink water containing diquat in excess of the MCL over many years could get cataracts.

How does exposure occur?

Human exposure will principally be by agriculture workers or others who use the chemical or are in the vicinity of fields or bodies of water where diquat is used.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Yes, and water supplied to Mount Laurel MUA customers is in compliance with USEPA and NJDEP requirements. The maximum concentration of Diquat permitted in drinking water is 20 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Diquat.

How can I reduce exposure?

Diquat in drinking water can be removed by point of use granulated activated carbon filtration.

Additional information regarding Diquat, including the information referenced, can be found at:

https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/reg_actions/reregistration/fs_PC-032201_1-May-02.pdf

<https://archive.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/web/pdf/0288.pdf>