



Standard Terminology Relating to Agricultural Tank Mix Adjuvants¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1519; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This terminology is used or is likely to be used in test methods, specifications, guides, and practices related to agricultural tank mix adjuvants.

1.2 These definitions are written to ensure that standards related to agricultural tank mix adjuvants are properly understood and interpreted.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

D459 Terminology Relating to Soaps and Other Detergents

D483 Test Method for Unsulfonated Residue of Petroleum Plant Spray Oils

E609 Terminology Relating to Pesticides

D2140 Practice for Calculating Carbon-Type Composition of Insulating Oils of Petroleum Origin

3. Terminology

3.1 *Terms and Definitions*:

absorption, *n*—a process in which one material (the absorbent) takes in and retains another (the absorbate).

acidifier, *n*—a material that can be added to spray mixtures to lower the pH.

activator, *n*—a material that increases the biological efficacy of agrichemicals.

active ingredient, *n*—a component of the formulation that produces a specific effect for which the formulation is designed.

adjuvant, *n*—a material added to a tank mix to aid or modify the action of an agrichemical, or the physical characteristics of the mixture.

alkalinity agent, *n*—a material that can be added to the spray mixture to raise the pH.

amphoteric surfactant, *n*—a surface-active agent capable of forming, in aqueous solution, either surface-active anions or surface-active cations depending on the pH.

anionic surfactant, *n*—surface-active agent in which the hydrophilic portion of the molecule forms exclusively a negative ion (anion) when placed in aqueous solution.

antifoaming agent, *n*—a material used to inhibit or prevent the formation of foam.

attractant, *n*—a material that attracts specific pests.

basic blend, *n*—a combination of wetting agent and buffering agent that maintains a pH of the spray mixture greater than 7.

buffer or buffering agent, *n*—a compound or mixture that, when contained in solution, causes the solution to resist change in pH. Each buffer has a characteristic limited range of pH over which it is effective.

canopy penetrating agent, *n*—an adjuvant that increases the penetration of the spray material into the crop canopy. See **deposition aid**.

cationic surfactant, *n*—a surface-active agent in which the hydrophilic portion of the molecule forms exclusively a positive ion (cation) when placed in aqueous solution.

colorant, *n*—a material used to alter the color of the tank mix.

compatibility agent, *n*—a surface-active agent that allows simultaneous application of liquid fertilizer and agrichemical, or two or more agrichemical formulations, as a uniform tank mix, or improves the homogeneity of the mixture and the uniformity of the application.

crop oil concentrate, *n*—an emulsifiable petroleum oil-based product containing 15 to 20 % w/w surfactant and a minimum of 80 % w/w phyto bland oil.

crop oil (emulsifiable), *n*—an emulsifiable petroleum oil-based product containing up to 5 % w/w surfactant and the remainder of a phyto bland oil.

crop oil (non-emulsifiable), *n*—See **phyto bland oil**.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E35 on Pesticides, Antimicrobials, and Alternative Control Agents and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E35.22 on Pesticide Formulations and Delivery Systems.

Current edition approved Sept. 15, 2016. Published September 2016. Originally approved in 1993. Last previous edition approved in 2015 as E1519 – 15b. DOI: 10.1520/E1519-16.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

defoaming agent, *n*—a material that eliminates or suppresses foam in the spray tank

deposition aid, *n*—a material that improves the ability of agrichemical sprays to deposit on targeted surfaces.

dormant oil, *n*—a horticultural spray oil applied during the dormant phase of the targeted plant. (See **horticultural spray oil**.)

drift control agent, *n*—See **drift reduction agent**.

drift reduction agent, *n*—a material used in liquid spray mixtures to reduce driftable fines.

drift retardant, *n*—See **drift reduction agent**.

driftable fines, *n*—the percent volume of spray droplet size distribution that is under 105 microns.

emulsifier, *n*—a surfactant that promotes the dispersion of one immiscible liquid in another.

esterified seed oil, *n*—a modified seed oil wherein the fatty acids are esterified with an alcohol (such as methyl or ethyl).

evaporation reduction agent, *n*—a material that reduces the evaporation rate of a spray mix during or after application, or both.

extender, *n*—a material that increases the effective life of an agrichemical after application.

foam suppressant, *n*—See **defoamer**.

foaming agent, *n*—a material that increases the volume or stability of the foam formed in a spray mixture.

foliar retention agent, *n*—a substance that increases the time and agrichemical remains in the targeted foliar zone.

functioning agent, *n*—a component of the formulation that produces a specific effect for which the formulation is designed.

high surfactant oil concentrate, *n*—an emulsifiable oil based product containing 25-50% w/w surfactant and a minimum of 50% w/w oil.

high surfactant crop oil concentrate, *n*—a high surfactant oil concentrate where the oil is a petroleum oil.

high surfactant modified vegetable oil concentrate, *n*—a high surfactant oil concentrate where the oil is a modified vegetable oil.

high surfactant vegetable oil concentrate, *n*—a high surfactant oil concentrate where the oil is a vegetable oil.

humectant, *n*—a material which increases the equilibrium water content and increases the drying time of an aqueous spray deposit.

modified vegetable oil, *n*—an oil, extracted from seeds, that has been chemically modified (for example, methylated).

modified vegetable oil concentrate, *n*—an emulsifiable, chemically modified vegetable oil product containing 5 to 20 % w/w surfactant and the remainder chemically modified vegetable oil.

naphtha-based oil, *n*—a petroleum oil containing a majority of the naphtha fraction.

nonionic surfactant, *n*—a surface-active agent that has no ionizable functional groups.

oil, *n*—See **petroleum**, **vegetable**, **paraffinic**, and so forth.

paraffinic oil, *n*—a petroleum oil (derived from paraffin crude oil) whose paraffinic carbon type content is typically greater than 60 %.

D2140

penetrant, *n*—a material that enhances the ability of an agrichemical to enter a substrate or penetrate a surface.

petroleum oil, *n*—oil derived from petroleum; contains a mixture of hydrocarbons that are broadly classified as paraffins, naphthenes, aromatics, or other unsaturates, or combination thereof.

phytobland oil, *n*—a highly refined paraffinic material with a minimum unsulfonated residue of 92 % v/v.

D483

rainfastness agent, *n*—a material which improves rainfastness.

E609

silicone surfactant, *n*—a surface active agent in which at least 75 % (by weight) is derived from organically modified silicone.

soil retention agent, *n*—a substance that increases the time an agrichemical or water remains in the targeted soil zone.

spreader, *n*—a material which increases the area that a droplet of a given volume of spray mixture will cover on a target.

spreader/sticker, *n*—a material that has the properties of both a spreader and a sticker.

sticker, *n*—a material that assists the spray deposit to adhere to the target in terms of resistance to wind, water, mechanical action.

surface-active agent, *n*—a material comprised of lipophilic and hydrophilic parts that when added to a liquid medium modifies the properties of the surface or interface by concentrating at the surface or interface.

DISCUSSION—**Surface-active agent** is the general term which includes soluble detergents in liquid medium, dispersing agents, emulsifying agents, foaming agents, penetrating agents, and wetting agents.

D459

surfactant, *n*—See **surface-active agent**.

vegetable oil, *n*—oil extracted from seeds; typically those of corn, cotton, peanut, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, or soybean.

vegetable oil concentrate, *n*—an emulsifiable vegetable oil product containing 5 to 20 % w/w surfactant and a minimum of 80 % w/w vegetable oil.

water conditioning agent, *n*—a material that reduces or eliminates the antagonism between a pesticide and ions present in the application water and results in improved bioefficacy.

wetting agent, *n*—wetting agents can be considered synonymous with spreaders in function.

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